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Crocs and croquet
Sisters Pearl and Ruby Mansfield try out the croquet set outside the Bowron House at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre this past weekend. The Cultural Centre offers a number of games and activities for visitors to explore around their Heritage Village. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Connecting readers and writers at Bookapalooza

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

How do you find your next great read? "We love the moment of connection," said author Douglas Tindal, "when a reader discovers a new title that speaks to them."

Tindal sits on the organizing committee for Bookapalooza; an annual event that draws all lovers of books to Minden Hills. The concept was developed from the successes of two individual initiatives: the Big Book Club, which made a name for itself by bringing celebrated authors to the county, and the Readers and Writers Expo, which played matchmaker between local readers and writers." Between the two," said Tindal, "the event has a six-year history (omitting the COVID-19 years). It seemed like a natural to bring them together under the Bookapalooza banner, and this is the third year for that incarnation."

Hosted at the Minden Hills Community Centre, organizers were able to coordinate around 40 authors to attend on Saturday,

see BOOKAPALOOZA page 16

High wildfire risk for portion of Haliburton County

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

A portion of Haliburton County has been labelled a high wildfire risk, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources, as much of the area endures a dry spell.

The southern portion of the county is at a high risk of wildfire, including Haliburton Village, Minden and Wilberforce as of July 10.

"The wildland fire hazard is currently low to moderate for Haliburton County with an area near the southern end of the county showing a high fire hazard," fire information officer Alison Lake said in an email. "The hazard is higher in areas that have not received recent rainfall."

While wildfires burn in northern Ontario, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) said "the province has adequate resources on hand" to tackle the current fire conditions.

"Ontario has 144 type-1 initial attack fire crews across the province, which comprise approximately 630 FireRangers," Lake said.

While the region has been, for the most part, wildfire-free so far this year, wildfires remain a concern as the county deals with scorching temperatures and little rainfall. Cottagers and residents can mitigate the risk in several ways, the MNR said.

"One example would be to reduce what is called 'ladder fuel' that may be around a home or cottage," Lake said. "Ladder fuel can be branches or shrubs that could carry a ground fire to the crown of larger trees. A crown fire burns hot and can spread quickly to adjacent trees or structures.

"Reducing the shrubs and lower branches of trees on your property can help reduce the risk of a nearby forest fire spreading to your home or cottage," she said.

Lake and cottage associations also work to mitigate the risks during the summer by educating property owners and visitors on the actions they can take to reduce the risk of a fire.

Halls and Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association, for example, hosted a webinar for cottage owners in early spring to address fire safety.

"We held a webinar called fire and water, and a part of it was talking about water quality and shoreline protection, and the other part was how to deal with fire risks on your property," Shelley Fellows, president of Halls and Hawk Lakes POA, said in a telephone interview.

The fire portion of the educational event was presented by a member of the MNR who spoke about removing the "fine flammables" from around your property.

"So things like pine needles that fall on rooftops or decks and to make sure they're cleaned," Fellows explained. "We make sure that the property owners, the people who attend our event, are equipped with specific actions that they can take in order to reduce the risk of fire around their property."

The Algonquin Highlands fire department is invited every year to the annual general meeting where an information session also takes place, Fellows explained.

"So they are there to also provide concrete steps that property owners can do to help reduce the risk of wildfires," she said. "It's a serious thing and something that we take very seriously."

The property owners association also trains cottage owners on how to use several fire pumps they had purchased about five years ago that are placed in locations around two lakes. Because many of the residences are water-access only, emergency response times can be delayed.

"The goal with the water pumps is not to actually fight fires like a fire department would or like the wildland fire services would," Fellows said. "It's to give people an opportunity to start the fire suppression and get that advance water on the fire prior to the arrival of the fire department so they don't expand.

"It's not to enable people to function as firefighters, firefighters are necessary and are invaluable for us, but it's to provide that initial suppression so that things do not spread and hopefully manage the extent of the fire prior to the fire department arriving," Fellows said.

A second fire pump training and refresher course is scheduled for the end of the month.

A message from Haliburton Highlands Health Services:

On behalf of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Board of Directors, I am thrilled to announce that Jennifer Burns West has accepted the position of Interim President and CEO of HHHS, effective September 6, 2025.

Jennifer joined HHHS' Senior Leadership team in September 2023 as Chief Nursing Executive (CNE) and Vice President of Clinical and Community Support Services. Since then, her impact on the organization has been very significant. With a clear vision and unwavering commitment to patient care, Jennifer has built a strong and talented team, strengthened relationships with community partners, and worked closely with staff across departments to foster a culture of collaboration, innovation, and excellence. Jennifer has led key initiatives to streamline clinical technology systems, enhance care delivery, and reinforce a people-first culture – positioning our organization to meet the evolving needs of our patients, residents and clients.

Given Jennifer's passion to deliver quality healthcare and her commitment to our community, HHHS is confident that she will continue the positive momentum that is thriving at the organization.

Jennifer, you are a trusted and visionary leader who brings tremendous experience, energy, and compassion to everything you do. You have already made a remarkable difference in our organization, and we are thrilled to welcome you into this interim role as we continue our search for a permanent President and CEO.

Filling the role of Interim President and CEO marks the completion of the first step of the Board's succession plan. HHHS will be collaborating with a firm to recruit an individual who will continue to enhance and optimize healthcare in Haliburton. We look forward to Jennifer's leadership during this important time. Further information regarding the Chief Nursing Executive role will be forthcoming.

Irene Odell
HHHS Board Chair

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Hot, lazy days
Local snapping turtle rests in the county sun. /Submitted by Marie Zahab

Tick talk gives the sitch on ticks and climate change

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

This year, people have been saying it is one of the worst years for ticks in Haliburton County. Sally Moore, volunteer with the Rotary Club of Minden, says that this is the first year that she has ever had to take a tick off of her dog. So far, she has had to take four off.

Living in Minden, this was the first year I have ever had a tick crawl up my leg. Luckily, I brushed it off before it had the chance to latch and feed.

To bring awareness to the public about ticks, the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit has recruited Sue Shikaze to present "Tick Talk! Ticks, Heat and Health in a Changing Climate" at several Haliburton County public library branch locations. Shikaze specializes in the health impacts of climate change, offering preventative tips and ways to reduce carbon emissions and climate impact.

Biannually, the health unit conducts tick dragging to survey the area to estimate the number of species. Their first tick dragging showed that the numbers were consistent with last year.

"Anecdotally, I hear people say there are lots of ticks," said Shikaze.

Interestingly, their first surveillance this year did not indicate a higher number of ticks than usual.

"You often don't feel them on your body, you don't feel them attached and you don't feel them when they are biting you," said Shikaze. "That's part of what the challenge is. You don't notice them in the same way that you do black flies and deer flies."

The library was interested in hosting the "Tick Talks" after hearing so many stories of people finding ticks on themselves and their pets this year.

"The reality is, the range of ticks is expanding," said Shikaze. "It is not surprising that people are seeing them more due to the way our climate is changing."

With warmer temperatures on average, warmer springs and falls, and mild winters, the weather is highly favourably for the development and spread of ticks across Ontario.

Deer and birds are the most common vector for spreading ticks in Ontario. While there are over 40 species of ticks in Canada, the most commonly found species in Ontario include the lone star tick, American dog tick, brown dog ticks, and the blacklegged tick.

One adult female tick can lay thousands of eggs. When ticks hatch, they are ready for their first meal. After feeding, the larvae will hide under leaf litter or nuzzle against a host for warmth while developing throughout the fall and winter. In the spring, nymphs will crawl up plants and hang on while extending their front legs. When a host brushes past them, they will latch onto them. Nymphs will transition to adults by the winter and reproduce.

Yes, even during mild winter months, people should be wary of ticks present.

Blacklegged ticks are the only species of tick that can spread Lyme disease. During their nymph stage, they will acquire Lyme disease through biting infected rodents. While deer are their main food source, deer do not spread Lyme disease. They are newcomers to Ontario, with the first blacklegged tick intruders coming to the province in the 1970s.

Lyme disease in humans is caused by Borrelia bacteria. At first, Lyme disease can present itself as rashes, fevers, headaches, and general fatigue. If not treated early, the bacteria can spread throughout the body.

Ticks generally live in cooler, humid environments. They are most commonly picked up either in forests or along the borderlands area between grassy areas and the treeline.

Shikaze recommends sticking to rails that are maintained and cut back, wearing bright colours, wearing closed toed shoes, tucking your pants into your socks and shirt into your pants, wearing deet, and wearing clothing that has been treated with repellant.

Bright colours make it easier to spot ticks on your body. When ticks latch on, they will travel to the warmest part of the body and are most commonly found behind the ears, under the armpit, along the hairline, in the groin area, and the back of the knee.

"If you are going to be out for a long time, doing regular tick checks is important," said Shikaze.

Always check your clothing before coming indoors and take a hot shower to wash off any unlatched ticks. Ticks will also not survive a hot dryer.

If a tick has already attached, the quicker removed, the better. Ticks should be held with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pulled out backwards, from the direction they come from, says Shikaze.

If the tick's mouthparts remain in the skin, carefully remove it. Wash the area with soap and water afterwards. Do not attempt to remove the tick with fire or other chemicals. This can cause the tick to regurgitate some of its stomach contents into the wound, increasing your risk of infection.

Ticks can be identified by uploading photos through etick.ca and more information on ticks can be found through the health unit's website hkpr.on.ca.

"It is not something distant and far away in the future," said Shikaze. "These are the impacts that we are experiencing now."

Shikaze hopes that the talks will teach people how they can take actions towards combatting climate change.

Supporting government policies and taking individual action can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, says Shikaze. Some individual actions can be installing a heat pump, driving less, and using an electric vehicle.

"The small things we can do to think about what our emissions impacts are all small pieces of the puzzle," she said.

Shikaze next talk will be taking place in Dorset on July 18 at 1 p.m.

"A big part of the role of public health is education and awareness raising," said Shikaze. "I think the libraries are really great community resources because they are open and accessible to anybody. These sessions are free and the library is free to come in, just hang out and use some of their resources they have available."

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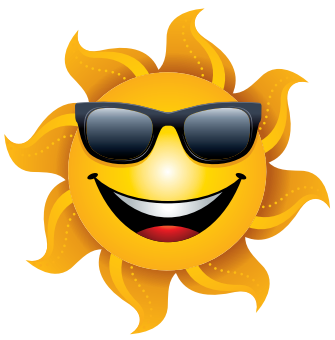

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The Susanna Foo is docked behind the Haliburton Timber Mart and is used by the Haliburton Highlands Paddlers. Keep an eye out for them in the morning on Mondays and Wednesdays. /submitted

Zen and the art of dragon boat paddling

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Haliburton County's local dragon boat team is open to renting out the boat to community groups and organizations, in an effort to share the benefits of the exercise with others.

Haliburton Highlands Paddler's Chair Della Redwood first fell in love with paddling while working with Halton Healthcare in Oakville. She had the opportunity to paddle on a dragon boat as part of a fundraising effort for the hospital. She has been hooked on paddling ever since.

For the past three years, Redwood has even been the chair of the club.

"It is a lot of fun," said Redwood. "Our team is a recreation team so we paddle for exercise."

Perhaps you have seen their boat, the Susanna Foo on the waters of Head Lake Park. Every Monday and Wednesday, the Susanna Foo and it's team of paddlers lap around Head Lake Park three times. Weather permitting, of course.

On occasion, the dragon boat will also be taken out in the evening around 5:30 p.m., and has been known to have voyages through Grass Lake and parts of Kashagawigamog. When not in use, the Susanna Foo rests at a dock located behind the Haliburton Timber Mart.

Redwood says that the Timber Mart has been hugely supportive of their club, allowing use of their dock and providing regular maintenance.

Fully loaded with 20 people, a coach, a steerer, and a drummer (a role often performed by the coach), the Susanna Foo can weigh over 2,000 pounds.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Highland Paddlers had their peak membership. During the pandemic, their membership numbers plummeted.

"We sit cheek-to-cheek with the person beside you," said Redwood. "Some people were not comfortable with that."

Since restrictions have been lifted, their membership numbers have been steadily increasing.

Redwood reports that the average age of their members has also gone down. While you need to be at least 14 years old to get on the boat, Redwood says that more and more young people are interested in participating with the sport.

"Younger people see us on the lake and realize it is something that they can do," said Redwood.

Redwood says that her favourite aspect of paddling on a dragon boat is the teamwork aspect of it and ability to see nature. Unlike other sports where participants interact individually, dragon boats move the quickest when all paddlers are paddling in unison and find their rhythm.

Finding this rhythm as a group has a meditative quality.

While out on their jaunts around the lakes, the paddlers regularly stop for 'nature moments', says Redwood. In the past, the boat has stopped to witness the birth of twin fawns along the banks of Grass Lake. Hitting the lakes in the early morning hours provide unique chances for the paddlers to see wildlife and other natural scenes that they cannot visit from the shore.

Redwood recalls someone falling overboard one time. By fluke, their steerer fell overboard and only struggled to get back on board from laughing so hard. Falling overboard is an exceptionally rare occurrence in the dragon boat, says Redwood.

The Haliburton Highlands Paddlers are always welcome to new members, with their current numbers being around 50 strong.

Currently, their biggest need is for volunteer coaches.

On a dragon boat, paddlers must care for themselves and for the paddlers you are cheek-to-cheek with. The job of a coach is to know what to do when something goes wrong, to keep the team together, teach new paddlers how to paddle, teach terminology used around the boat, and to speak with paddlers on their abilities and help them fit into the team. In the event of an emergency, paddlers will report to the coach who is unaccounted for.

As more and more people join the dragon boat team, the need for more coaches increases. Professional training will be given at no expense for the volunteer coaches.

While the Susanna Foo has made appearances at dragon boat festivals throughout Ontario, Redwood says that the ship is taking a break from pageantry this year.

Through joining the Highlands Paddlers, Redwood says that she has learned more about herself than ever before.

"I learned that I am more driven than I thought I was," said Redwood. "I like to paddle first thing in the morning as it starts my day off better."

Last year, Friendship Force brought a team of people from the United Kingdom onto the dragon boat to paddle around the lakes. Redwood hopes that more non-profits and other businesses in Haliburton County use the dragon boat for outings. The more people that see the dragon boat on the water, the more people that can become interested in the sport, says Redwood.

The use of the Susanna Foo is free for groups that are wanting to have group experiences. Organizations like the cadets, scouts, and girl guides, and local businesses are greatly encouraged to reach out to the team and inquire about using the dragon boat.

While paddling is great exercise, Redwood also says that there are great psychological benefits to exercise, getting out in nature, and collaborating as a team.

"You get to meet people, get outdoors, and appreciate the nature that Haliburton County has to offer," said Redwood.

More information on how to join the Haliburton Highlands Paddlers and how to become a volunteer coach is on their website www.haliburtonhighlandspaddlers.ca.

Back to basics; artist honours community roots

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Some know her as Tammy, others as Tamara. Online, she's known as the *Girl with the Golden Pencil*. A select few know her as 'mom,'

And at her core, Tamara Holman is an artist.

She's called Haliburton home all of her life, with memories of scampering across neighbourhood backyards and playing in the cul-de-sac at the end of her road or the beaches in town. Through high school, she knew that creativity flowed through her veins; a trait nurtured by her parents. "My parents don't have an artistic background," said Holman, "but they knew they wanted me to be happy. That was the most important thing."

Holman attained her post-secondary education from the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) in Toronto, but she attended the artistic venue during a pivotal time in human history; the cusp of art digitization.

While she saw value in the new chapter of available art, she struggled with capturing the same rush that was brought to her by paper and pencil. "I had an end goal of being in animation," she said. "But I ended up in a different direction."

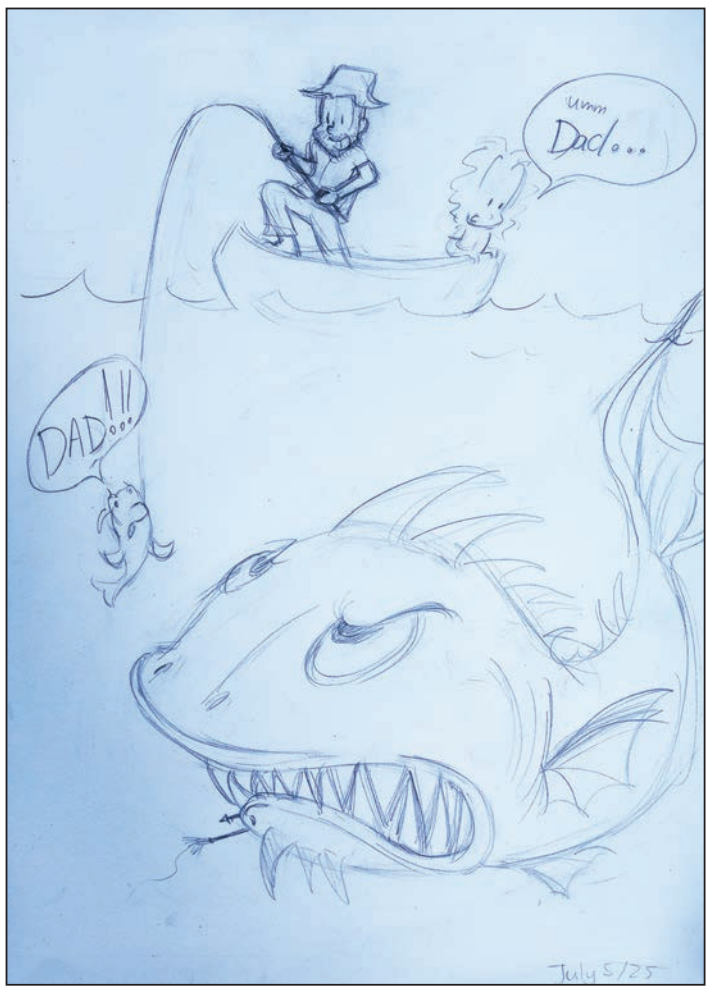
In the early 2000s, the world shifted. Brick and mortar and paper and ink started to make the shift to mouse clicks and data entry. Holman was living in Toronto at the time, and despite her journey of following the dream of animation, she found herself at a stand-still.

"I kind of just crashed," she recalled. "It was a lot of years in school with nothing at the end. And I put drawing away for a while. I could not physically or mentally draw. I couldn't do it."

The culmination of a recession and high cost of living, mixed with her desired mediums of traditional artistic creativity seemingly fading away, Holman returned to her hometown Haliburton. It was here that she started a family, and turned to a career in early childhood education.

But the spark of being around young kids woke up a side of Holman that had been sleeping for many years. "When I got back into drawing, I had just become a mom," she said. "My art at that time was a way to find my relief and to find humour in those early stages of being a mom."

Artist Tammy Holman will be contributing her artistic work to the newspaper as a means of sharing her stories with the community she grew up in. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



A rough sketch by Holman for her upcoming comic series. The artist is dedicated to paper and pencil for the early stages of her drawing, before she adds the digital component to the works. /submitted

Through this chapter, Holman created a series of characters; inspired in part from her own children's whimsical outlooks on life, mixed with a dash of sass from two of her favourite characters: Calvin and Hobbes. While she has gotten back into the world of traditional paper and pencil, Holman shared that she is continuing to find opportunities for creativity that combines her preferred style with touches of digitization. "It can be a very useful tool," she said.

"Growing up, I would always read the comics in the *Saturday Star*," she said. "And I would look forward to that. So to be able to create comics for our local papers, that's such a privilege."

There was something about holding a paper copy of community news that she gravitated towards, and still does; her desire for traditional, tangible experiences apparent. As her collection of hand-drawn characters and comics continued to grow, she approached the local papers for a partnership, which was readily accepted. Having grown up in Haliburton, Holman regularly read the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times*. And now, she's going to start seeing her name on these pages.

"It feels like a very full circle moment," said Holman, with a nod back to her roots. "This is a time where I'm really working to slow down with my arts and allow myself that artistry and honouring those skills."

While Holman continues in her role with early childhood education, as well as the full-time job of mom, she feels at peace with creating and contributing regular work to the newspapers, for all readers to enjoy and share. "I want it to be relatable," she said. "I want it to touch on the topics of the time."

Readers will start seeing *Haliwood North* in the pages of these papers on a regular basis moving forward. And wearing her many hats, Holman hopes to continue to keep it fresh, funny, and timely for readers. "I'm just so happy to be doing it and enjoying it," she said. "You can always keep finding inspiration."

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The power of the paper

THIS WEEK we were reminded of the value behind our newspapers.

In an interview with cartoonist Tammy Holman, she shared how her precious weekend mornings were filled with eagerly devouring the comics at the back of the *Saturday Star*. How it was an event she looked forward to each week, resulting in her full-circle experience of now drawing for her own local newspapers.

The power of the paper.

It shapes, breaks, and builds a community. While we write some stories on bad bug seasons and open mic nights, we write others about decisions that impact the masses, lives that have touched others far beyond the corners of our towns.

It's not something that we take lightly. And while some weeks may feel lighter than others, each edition of the paper you hold in your hands is something I feel proud of. Not just for myself and my team who worked to assemble it, but for the community as a whole. Seeing what we are doing, seeing what we have done.

The power of the paper.

Last week, I wrote a story that was incomplete. It was one single viewpoint from a multi-faceted issue that had layer after layer piled on top. It was complicated. And I simplified it.

I should not have done that.

Because the power of the paper is that it sets the narrative for our future. We are carving out the memories we will look back on in ink and fibres. Our next generations will consume it with the lens of truth, the gritty grain of salt seen as fact.

And we owe them more than one side.

I owe that to not only the future, but the present as well.

We are often swept away in the tides of truth. The need for chasing the news, the desperation for cracking a story first in an age where 'news' is broadcast to our tiny screens with each ticking second

That's not to say that the one angle is necessarily wrong. Their view may be correct and valid. But it's the contrasting characters that add colour, the variety of viewpoints that add volume.

When I was growing up, working at the *Echo* and the *Times* as a high school co-op student, news didn't move this fast. We weren't inundated with stories at the pace of a never-ending stream. There was time. There was consideration. There was a pace that allowed for thought and questions and the opportunity to simply say: 'I don't know enough about that, so let me learn more.'

Emily Stonehouse

Editorial

It feels like we have rushed away from that; gobbling up meagre crumbs amongst a smattering of truths thrown out by anyone with a platform. And we jump on them; hungry to crack the story. A story that will one day be accepted as fact.

The power of the paper.

We need to slow down. We need to take the time to drink our coffee, read our paper, and ask questions.

So the next time a story crosses my desk, I owe that story time. I owe it consideration. I owe it a dedication to thought and questions and opportunities to learn more.

Because situations that are complicated needn't be simplified, they should be shared with truth, consideration, and a dedication to learning more.

The power of the paper.

Seeing what we are doing, and what we have done.

It shapes, breaks, and builds a community.

The aging brain

MY MAJOR moan about dementia is that we don't know what it isn't. I'm pretty sure when I can't remember my password to gain entry to some internet portal that the enthusiasm of technocrats to constantly change what's working to something presumably better is the culprit, not my aging brain. When I can't remember where I stashed the mosquito coils and sunscreen last fall, I embark on the search rather than castigate my brain. But when names and nouns depart to a distant land and access is random and unreliable, I worry.

Except it's quite common, not just among my age group. We frequently play the charade of shared brain, tossing potentially relevant factoids on to the table until Bingo! someone finds the word and we all congratulate ourselves for helpful perseverance. Or alternately, we agree that we know what they mean without the word and urge them to carry on with the story.

I want for us to be as comfortable with an aging brain as we are with an aging body. Yes, my knees twinge sometimes and my sleep is interrupted by bathroom visits, but hey, life is still good and I can contribute. But if my brain is going bad, my destiny is dire. I am en route to becoming nobody, an expensive lump on the log of society, an outcast before I am interred or scattered, invisible and/or pitied in my last chapter.

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

Pair, Ponder

Why haven't we given the same attention to how the brain ages as we have to how arthritis 'naturally' over time gums up our joints or we become dependent on our bifocals or we need people to speak up clearly to make out what they're saying? I say it's because knees and eyes and ears are parts of us, and the brain IS us. And what makes the brain an element of a different order? Maybe an old gift from René Descartes in the early 1600s - Cogito, ergo sum: 'I think therefore I am.'

The dementia literature has tended toward tragedy, the person with dementia losing themselves, first vacating their bodily home and eventually needing a new physical home. If they are seen as becoming other than themselves, it's usually for the bad – tantrums and paranoia and wandering. No wonder we're terrified when nouns desert us.

How refreshing, then, to hear Rev Lynn Casteel Harper's take on dementia (*New York Times* June 22/25; author of *On Vanishing, Mortality, Dementia, and What it Means to Disappear*). She reviews the memoir of several adult children of people with dementia and finds, with the exception (except for a sliver) of Erica Jong's daughter, that they discovered lovely aspects of their parents that were previously unavailable to them. Perhaps those qualities were buried deep. More likely it was not excavation that was needed, nor the disappearance of censor boards, but rather finding the motivation and creating the conditions that allow those characters to appear.

Harper holds that our negative narrative about dementia is the worst thing about the condition. "The notion that people are gone before they are dead harms the care they receive when they need it most," she says, and "obscures the reality that a significant measure of their suffering emerges not from the condition alone, but from the social response to it – the part of the situation we are most able to fix." Aha, a modern and demographically adapted variation of blaming the victim.

Why do we distance and denigrate aging of the brain differently than aging of the body? Because, I say, we don't know how to fix it. We don't have a cure. We don't even have a reliable intervention to slow it down or ameliorate the symptoms. We could say the same thing about mental illness and addiction for much the same reason. All because we haven't studied how the brain operates 'normally' so we castigate those whose brains operate abnormally, as if somehow our ignorance is their fault.

But we do know quite a lot about how to care respectfully for people, especially vulnerable people. Perhaps allowing people to be more than their brains - across the full spectrum of life - is the way to finding a more humane way of dealing with the spectre of dementia as well as other mental impairments. It might not protect us from having dementia (isn't it interesting that we don't say 'being demented' and that 'demented' is usually used in reference to insanity?) but it would almost certainly make old age safer.

I'm all for growing old safely.

points of view

Yo-Yo man

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

WHEN I was about six or seven years old, way back in the 1960s, we were sold a bill of goods. You see, for one or two special days a year during those formative summers, a Yo-Yo Pro would visit our local toy shop and show us that, if you worked hard and applied yourself, you too could one day get a job visiting local toy shops in the summer, and get paid to show off all the Yo-Yo tricks you knew to an appreciative and awe-struck group of kids.

It was further proof that not all heroes wear capes.

Essentially, that man showed us that though your mom and dad aspired for you to get a higher education so that you could one day be important and influential, there was actually no need. Instead, you could just fast track the whole process by mastering the Yo-Yo.

Of course, we weren't stupid. We all knew the operative word in Yo-Yo Pro was 'Pro', as in probably. Any kid who found himself with an excess of free time because he lied to his parents about completing his chores or homework, could probably master "Around the world", "The Sleeper", "Rock the Cradle", and "Walking the Dog".

Then, all it would take was the grit and determination required to avoid any educational endeavours beyond sixth grade to launch a career as a Yo-Yo Pro.

The challenge was getting even one parent to support this dream – although, I came close once just after I handed my dad my report card.

I know what you're thinking, but the kids of my day were not naïve. We understood that being a Yo-Yo Pro was not as glamorous as it appeared. Sure, they had achieved the pinnacle of success, but there were strings attached.

For one thing, they lived with constant pressure. A Yo-Yo Pro is only as good as his last trick, and a broken finger could end a career. Plus, I can't imagine what it would've been like to spend a day being applauded and admired by kids everywhere, only to go home to a place where you weren't allowed to play Yo-Yo in the house.

Then, there was the sales aspect.

After they wowed us with their Yo-Yo mastery, they would unleash the sales pitch and, presumably make millions of dollars on the commission they earned from selling seven-year-olds 10 cent strings and one-dollar Yo-Yos.

Well, sales pitch might not be the right word. I imagine, those things sold themselves.

The part that really frosts my flakes is that Yo-Yo Pros were never invited to our high school on career day. Otherwise, I might not be writing this today – and we'd all be happy.

Ah, who am I kidding? I was not cut out for it. A Yo-Yo in my hands was a lethal weapon to anyone within yo-yo-ing distance. My "Around the worlds" often turned into "Around the necks." Which, if there were no rescuers in sight, often turned into "The Sleeper," though not in the good way.

The surprising thing is, even the very best Yo-Yo enthusiasts in my neighbourhood never made it to the big times. In fact, I now know more people who made it to the NHL than those who made it to the lofty ranks of professional Yo-Yo-ing. I bet you do too.

Which just shows you how tough high-level Yo-Yo-ing really is.

Even so, I can't help but think that if I had just applied myself less, I could have been one of those guys. It's probably for the best though.

Making a living with a Yo-Yo probably has its ups and down.

pic *of the* past

From left, Curry Motors staff John McNeil, Mary Pearsell, Dale Emmerson, Lois Whittaker, Len Salvatori and Lloyd Coneybeare, dealer owner. The year is probably 1972 and shows Rotary Car draw winner. /FILE

Four million caregivers

Green meadow

Tales from the great

Lynda Shadbolt

YOGA IS a practice that is very simple. In each pose the following cues are given. "Find your foundation, feel what is contact with the earth and make that contact stable and clear. You want to feel grounded and settled." Once you have your foundation, the next step is to align your body to the best of your ability. "We want to honour the natural curves of our spine which are impacted by the position of our pelvis. We want to align ourselves so that we don't encourage poor posture such as head forward position and weak back body."

We can align ourselves when we are sitting, lying on our backs, standing or on all fours. Alignment is essential for deep breathing and good flow of energy throughout the body. Once we have a good foundation and are aligned, then we can work on our flexibility, strength and balance. Using these three simple instructions, yogis do back bends, forward bends, balances, and many other poses. Following these simple instructions ensures that the yogi gets maximum benefit from the practice. I have practiced these ideas thousands of times over my many years of doing yoga.

These days I find these ideas help me as a caregiver. I sat with my mom at emerg the other day for five hours. My mom is 92 and she was super grumpy about having to wait. She wasn't feeling well and so I understood her emotions. And I could see that emerg was busy and the staff were doing their best. We had no option but to sit and wait. I found myself slumping in my chair and my mind wandering all over the place and worrying.

And then I would remember to find my foundation. Feel my feet. Feel the earth. Take a few breaths. And then I would align my spine. I would sit aligning my spine with my head above my heart, my heart above my pelvis. And then I would intentionally practice patience, kindness, and compassion. For my mom and for everyone waiting and everyone being looked after.

I would say a few affirmations to myself, or send blessings to everyone. I also did a little hand yoga which I am loving these days. Lots of gentle exercises for my wrists and hands which get sore with lots of biking. I hummed to my mom. And then I would eventually kind of slump in again and get distracted on my phone. The phone makes it so easy to avoid what is going on. But that doesn't help my mom, or me really. And I would begin again. Foundation, alignment and patience.

These are the things we can do when life isn't going the way that we want. As a caregiver we are given many complex circumstances to negotiate. Every little thing we can do to look after ourselves matters. It helps us, and the person we are caring for. According to the Ontario Caregiver Association there are four million caregivers in Ontario.

Brooksong's Haliburton Highlands Challenge in full-swing

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Participants at Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre take a moment to connect during a past exercise. /submitted

Expressive arts is one form of creativity utilized by participants and families navigating their cancer journey at Brooksong.

Brooksong's Haliburton Highlands Challenge (HHC) is in full swing again this summer with the cancer retreat and support centre vying to hit its $100,000 fundraising goal.

In its sixth year, the HHC encourages people to move their bodies or engage in creative activities while raising money that will directly help move people off the waiting list for Brooksong's free cancer retreats and programs.

"We invite the Brooksong community to get involved, it's a peer-to-peer fundraiser so essentially people sign up and we encourage them to get moving any way they are able," Emma James, Brooksong's fundraising organizer, said in a July 10 telephone interview. "So this could be biking, paddling, walking but it also can be things like creating art or taking pictures. Any way that you can get out there and get moving."

The challenge kicked off on July 1 and many local businesses have hosted dedicated "Brooksong Day" events in an effort to raise money and awareness for the retreat and support centre. Glecoff's Family Store hosted the special day on July 5.

"Particiapants would set a goal to the likes of spending 30 minutes outside everyday and set a fundraising goal of whatever that might be and then they would encourage their circle of friends, social media and family members to donate towards them, Brooksong.

"So essentially everyone gets moving together, getting moving for Brooksong to try to help ensure that no one walks alone through cancer," James said.

In May of 2018, Brooksong began hosting retreats for people living with a cancer diagnosis, and their caregiver or support person to have a place to find solace.

"It's just a really special place," Brooksong executive director Barb Smith-Morrison said. "It's a one-of-a-kind retreat centre in Ontario. We believe really that healing happens best in community and that the outcomes are better when caregivers are also well cared for. Quite often we know that caregivers, whether it's cancer or another life-limiting disease, caregivers get pretty tuckered out.

"When people come on retreat the intention is to step out of your everyday experience and schedule and step into a really immersive healing setting," Smith-Morrison said.

Participants are treated to a whole food-based menu, massages, gentle and restorative yoga, and expressive art, amongst many other activities, all the while in a sanctuary-like setting.

"The tools we introduce are intended to be well-being tools that support mental health, emotional and physical well-being while you're going through a cancer experience," Smith-Morrison said. "There's a variety, we do nature connection, forest therapy, art journaling in nature, meditation … all things proven to be supportive of the negative side effects of a diagnosis or treatment."

The support centre also helps to provide the tools participants need at home, for when they leave a retreat.

The four-day retreat is offered at no cost to the participants "to make it as accessible as we can for people when they need it the most." Through the years the centre has helped more than 800 people through retreats and online wellness sessions and practices. Smith-Morrison explained previous participants have ranged between 20 years old and about 80 years old.

As for the HHC itself, the fundraising event raised more than $107,000 last year with a similar goal this year. The next 'Brooksong Day' event is set to take place at Hook Line & Sinker on July 19.

"We have a very long wait list for our retreats and so $100,000 will move quite a few people off the waiting list and into a retreat," Smith-Morrison said.

Although Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre has a lengthy waitlist, local residents are prioritized into the programs and allow them a choice of which program they would like to participate in.

> ***"When people come on retreat the intention is to step out of your everyday experience and schedule and step into a really immersive healing setting."***
>
> — Barb Smith Morrison, Brooksong executive director

Minden Memories

The great fire on May 15, 1942, destroyed much of downtown Minden's north side. This photo shows the damage, with Hewitt Brothers Transport garage visible across the river. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week

1933. Molly Ryan dreams of being a journalist, but the Depression forces her into odd jobs to support her family. The one bright spot is her friends, Hannah and Max Dreyfus.

But as the summer unfolds, rising antisemitism and tensions between Irish and Jewish communities erupt into violence. Molly and Max find themselves caught in the middle, with devastating consequences for both their families.

Six years later, the Depression has eased and Molly is a reporter at her local paper. But a new war is on the horizon, putting everyone she cares about most in peril. As letters trickle in from overseas, Molly is forced to confront what happened all those years ago, but is it too late to make things right?

Letters Across the Sea by Genevieve Graham is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

HSAD housing nearly ready to open doors

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The long-awaited student residence at Haliburton School of Art and Design will open it's doors for the upcoming fall semester. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

It's been a long time coming, but the student residence at Haliburton School of Art and Design (HSAD) will be opening their doors this fall. "An exact opening date hasn't been confirmed yet," said Asher Lurie, the director of communications for Fleming College. "Students who have signed up for residence will be notified in the coming days, and we will share the opening date over the summer."

Construction has been in the works since December, 2023, and with the majority of the build complete, crews have been dedicating their time to landscaping and details in recent weeks. "There have not been any significant delays for the residence build," reported Lurie. "Like any project of this size, there can be minor slowdowns due to supply chain issues, inclement weather, etc., but the process has been smooth."

The two units, located at the entryway for the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, were built to allow for 47 beds. The rooms vary between one or two bedroom options, and include shared kitchenettes, bathrooms, and accessible living options. The buildings were constructed with a community-focused design, encouraging shared spaces and opportunities of communal interactions.

"The residence will enhance the student experience at HSAD in a number of ways," said Lurie. "It provides students with housing that is conveniently located close to campus, offers a place to connect with fellow creatives outside of the classroom that will help foster a creative, collaborative community, and ultimately lets residents make the most of all Haliburton County has to offer."

With housing continuing as an ongoing area for dialogue, the new residence offers the opportunity for additional lodgings to hit the market, which were previously filled by students.

Susan Tromanhauser sits on the Places for People board, and shared that there is a steady need for housing in the area. "We had two vacancies, and received interest from dozens of people in our units," she said. "We continually get phone calls from people in the area looking for housing. It is frustrating that we are not able to help more people."

Tromanhauser hopes that offering housing through HSAD for local students will put a dent in the overall need. "This additional housing is certainly needed and welcome," she said. "Hopefully being able to house students on campus will free up units in the area for workers and others in need of housing."

The units are set to open for the fall semester, with applications steadily rolling in, according to staff at the local campus. Staff believe that all available rooms will be filled each semester.

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MVPs

The difference between the first and second week of the soccer season always brings a noticeable and exciting jump in ability, skill, and overall comfort levels. These young athletes begin to take the lessons they've already been taught and return to the field with a newfound level of confidence, focus, and certainty in their movements. The games quickly become faster-paced and more competitive, with more players actively participating in every play. There's increased passing, more vocal encouragement between teammates, and some absolutely epic saves that draw cheers from the sidelines. Coaches begin to notice the early signs of growth and are thrilled to see how well the players are responding to the training drills and guidance. With this momentum building, we hope to push these kids even further - encouraging greater determination, sharper skills, and the ability to rise to more challenging game situations. All the while, their proud parents look on with big smiles, cameras in hand, ready to capture every moment of progress.

Submitted by Andrew Brown

Abby Stancati - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Beau Blaney + Fynnley Miscio - Girls 12-13 - Green Team

Christopher Spanos - Boys 10-13 - Haliburton Crew United

Charlotte Houghton - Girls 7-9 - Kiwi Team

Declan Ware - Boys 7-9 - Purple Team

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MVPs

Rory - Boys 4-6 - Purple Team

Ella S - Girls 7-9 - Silver Team

Finn - Girls 4-6 - White Team

Hash H - Boys 7-9 - White Team

Nixon Mitchell - Boys 10-13 - Media Platform Inc's Trail Blazers

Olivia Emmerson - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Raelyn - Girls 7-9 - Blue Team

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Action shots

Soccer photos submitted

Starting them young: introductions to French available for all

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

If there's one thing we know that all kids love, it's storytime. And turns out, it doesn't matter what language it's in.

Canadian Parents for French (CPF) is a nationally-recognized grassroots organization that has been encouraging bilingual efforts for over 40 years. Started by parents, the group hosts programs and facilitates community events across the country, including right here in the Haliburton Highlands.

Locally, there are two methods where school children can learn French: either core French, which offers 40 to 50 minutes of French speaking per day within an English stream of education, or French immersion, in which students split their day up with 60 per cent in French and 40 per cent in English.

But one of the local organizers with CPF believes that there are benefits to hearing the language prior to starting formalized schooling. "Hearing another language is so good for the brain," said Stephanie Ward, local educator and CPF representative. "It is so important to hear those other sounds at an early age."

Ward is working alongside musician Bethany Houghton to present Bilingual Musical Storytime on July 18 at the Haliburton Library. This is the second year the program has run, and Ward shared that it was met with great success last time. Both times were made possible by an Early Years French Footprints Grant offered through the CPF.

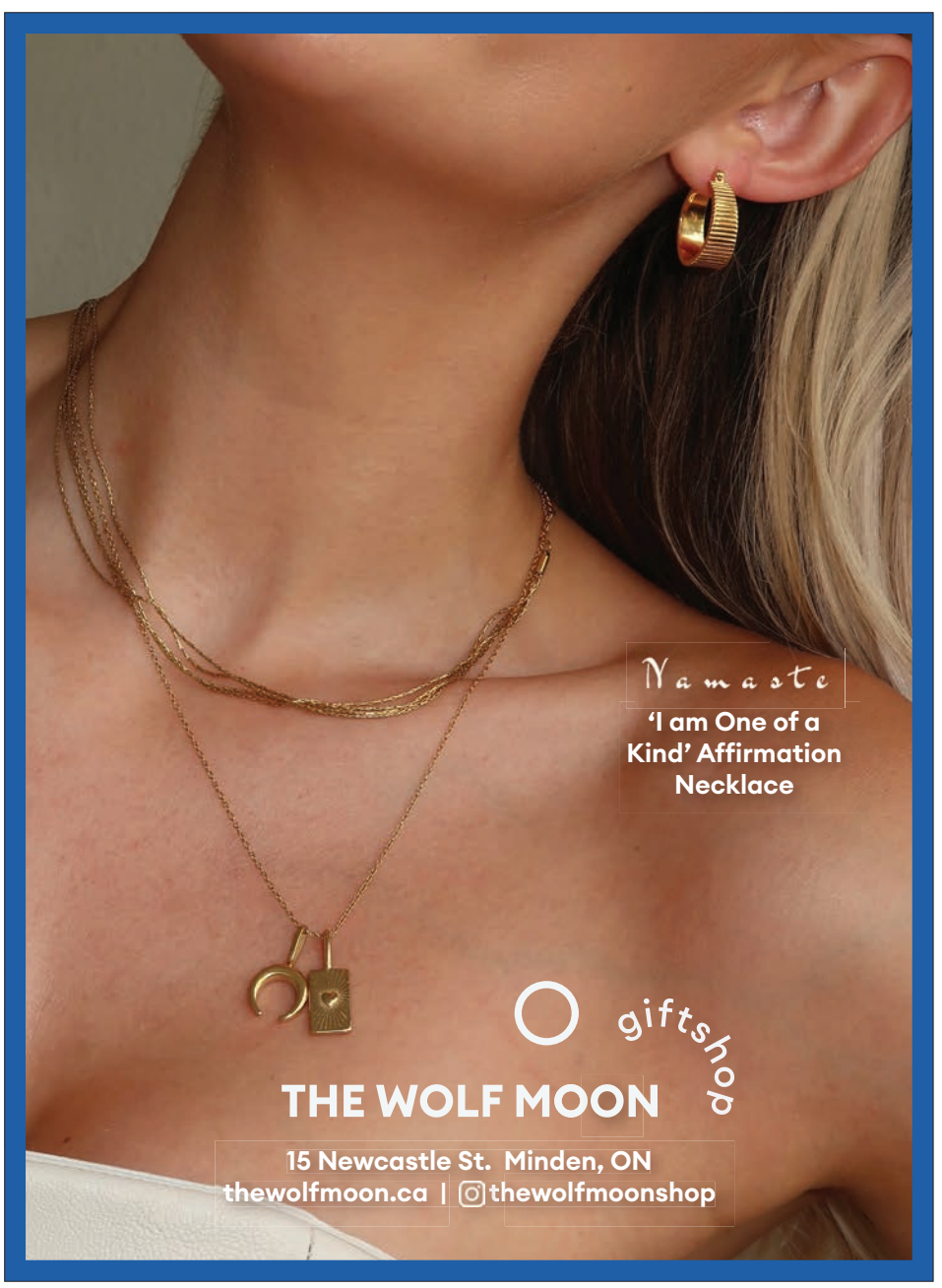
"Research shows strong evidence of the benefits of exposure to other languages, particularly in the early years of brain development," said Ward. "Families will be exposed to a mixture of French and English, through stories and music."

The storytime is geared towards kids anywhere under the age of six, including toddlers not quite speaking yet. Ward shared that by offering exposure to different languages and recognizing how kids engage can be a helpful tool for parents deciding which stream of French their kids would thrive in. "It's just a fun learning experience," she said. "And it's been very well received, It's such a fun format."

The local branch of the CPF is committed to adding more programs throughout the year for students in the French programs. She noted that students do not need to speak French at home in order to be enrolled in French immersion, and if anything, the regular CPF Game Nights are an opportunity to allow students to teach their parents a thing or two that they've learned. "It's all fun," said Ward. "Watching the parents try to keep up with their kids, and showing them that it's okay to make mistakes along the way."

The upcoming storytime is slated for July 18 at the Haliburton Library at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to attend the free event with music and stories, but the content will be geared towards a younger audience. The local libraries also offer a series of book walks and storytimes in French and English, if others are looking to learn more. "We love to offer French early on," said Ward. "It has huge benefits to our community."

Bethany Houghton plays music during the last CPF gathering for young minds. She will be returning to the Haliburton Library on July 18. /submitted



The weaver of wisdom: Biljana Banchotova and her artistic journey

ADAM FRISK
Journalist

Biljana Banchotova poses for a photo inside her art studio in Tory Hill. /ADAM FRISK staff

Just steps from Highway 118 in Tory Hill lies a whimsical land of wisdom, spirituality and visionary art.

There, you will find a beautifully sculpted piece of property where butterflies float, frogs gather and Biljana Banchotova weaves her magic. With her hands often adorned with the vibrant pigments of her artistic endeavours, today she holds them clasped while meditating in her art studio.

Standing inside her Whirling Wisdom Art Creations studio, Banchotova meditates in preparation for her summer journey abroad. Beneath her moccasined feet lies an awe-inspiring "Creational Spiral at Celestial Heart Opening" floor mural, that radiates with a celestial glow reminiscent of the Milky Way.

"It's the natural pathway, it's life's path," Banchotova said. "I find it's always been a spiral, always been evolving, always been recreating and reinventing."

Banchotova explained her studio, which she built from the ground up, represents more than a physical structure; it's a dynamic sanctuary where the intricate threads of her journey converge into compelling visual and therapeutic experiences.

"Another way to attunement is through sound," the artist explained. "Sound is healing, sound is powerful and awakening."

Born in South Africa to a Macedonian family, Banchotova spent her formative years immersed in the vibrant traditions and close-knit community that defined her family's upbringing in the Balkans.

"My grandmother, we were shepherds, and she would weave carpets. My grandfather would harvest the wool and she would weave," Banchotova said. "She would say 'Now Biljana, you weave your own carpet, it'll look different, but it will be yours."

Dozens of paintings hang from the walls inside her studio, with each one showcasing Banchotova's astute connection to herself, the land and her spiritual journey.

When Banchotova arrived in Canada in 1996, she landed in Toronto and that's when her artistic and spiritual evolution accelerated. For more than a decade, she committed herself to engaging with the First Nations communities at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, immersing herself deeply in their sacred ceremonies, potent songs, and ancient philosophy.

"I do feel adopted in the community because I spent so many years at the centre, it's where I often took my son for outings and socials, ancestral readings," she said. "It's been 20 years I just realized that, healing with the First Nations and when I got my land here, the elders came and set up this teepee, it's when I really felt the healing with the people, the reconciliation."

She also raised her son in Ontario's capital city, where the 25 year old just graduated from law school.

"He's the other side of the rainbow," Banchotova said with a laugh. "And it's business law so wow."

Banchotova's artistic career spans more than two decades. At her studio in Tory Hill, she facilitates a diverse array of immersive workshops. Each workshop is structured to encourage participants to delve deeply into their consciousness, to reconnect with their inner wisdom.

In 2013, she gave birth to her daughter on the very land she carefully cultivates. Banchotova has since illustrated three children's books which allowed her to "bring her life work in and share it with the young ones."

"I'm very passionate about giving the tools to our youth and sharing the knowledge," she said.

If she isn't tending to her gardens or creating within her studio, you'll find Banchotova in an unsuspecting place.

"On a bus! I'm on a school bus," she said with a laugh. "The community really needed it, it was my daughter's bus and there were problems with a driver and the school, it became a big thing.

"So I got my B license. This winter I got my training and figured to myself 'I can do this!" she said.

And naturally, Banchotova encourages the students to engage with art, providing water markers to the children and allowing them to use the bus as a teaching board. She is also working with Wilberforce to help encourage students to get involved with the land and hopes to be able to work with the school board to develop a peace garden in the fall.

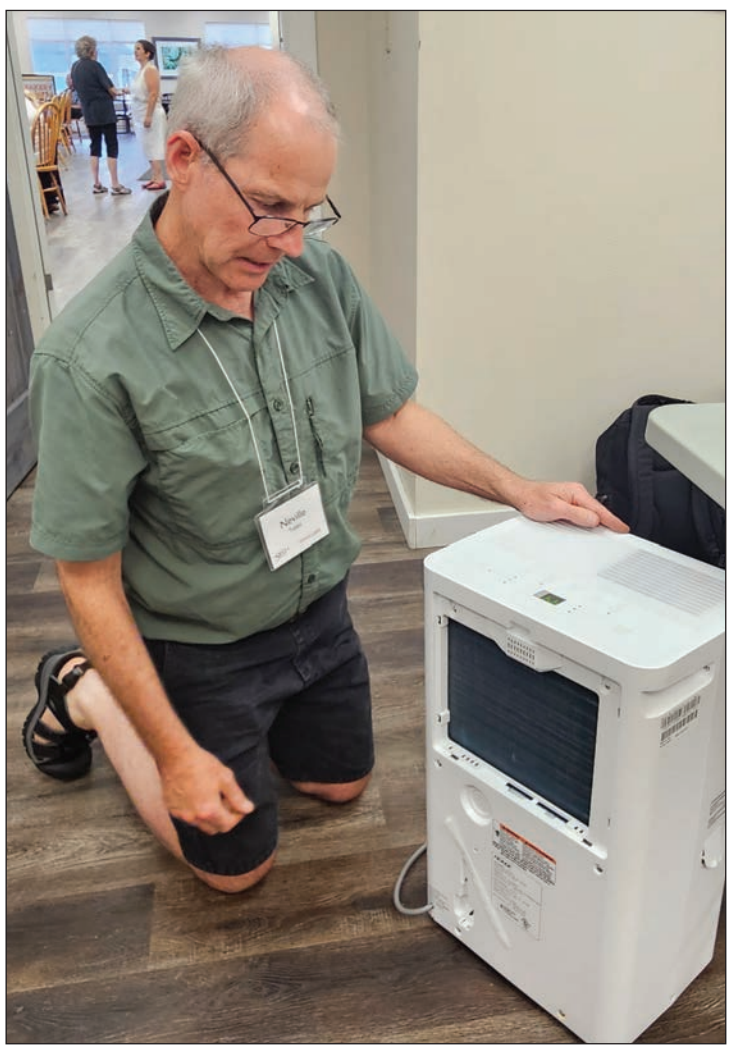
Banchotova dabbled in the Airbnb market before the COVID-19 pandemic, hosting visitors from several countries and across Canada. But since new regulations in the county, she had to delist her property for the time being.

While Banchotova embarks on her summer journey, the weaver of wisdom will likely return to her sanctuary on the whimsical land where she'll continue her artistic expression and therapeutic practice inside the Whirling Wisdom Art Creations.

Care to repair

SIRCH Community Services are continuing their monthly Repair Cafes in an effort to keep broken items from local landfills, and to offer a second life for items thought to be broken. To the right, Michael Kursbatt investigates a light fixture to fix at the Repair Cafe. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Dave Paddock checks the gears of a bike.


Neville Lebbit investigates a portable air conditioner.

The nearly completed mural alongside the restaurant Juna in downtown Haliburton. Owner Terri Mathews-Carl was seeking something 'retro' to add colour to the corridor, and artist Teddy Griffith brought the piece to life. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Mural magic; bringing colour to the county

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

A pop of colour, a dash of light: exactly what this community needs.

Teddy Griffith thought the same. And with a vision, a team, and several buckets of paint, he's brought that idea to light.

Griffith has nearly completed a large mural that spans the entirety of the Juna outdoor wall on Highland Street in the heart of Haliburton. Juna opened up in late spring, and owner Terri Mathews-Carl was adamantly looking for something to spruce up the alleyway alongside the building that leads into the backyard patio, adorned with fairy lights.

"I am obsessed with it," said Mathews-Carl of the artistic endeavour. "Teddy was so great. I was kind of all over the map with my ideas. I wasn't sure what I wanted, just knew what I didn't want. I wanted something retro and something that was true to Haliburton. He worked with that and made it perfect."

Some would recognize Griffith's name from his last mural, seen at the River Cone in Minden. He completed that piece last fall, which captures the essence of Freddie Mercury from the band Queen in a funky and fabulous display at the downtown Minden Hub.

So you'd think that Griffith is an established artist, but in reality, he's just diving into the arts world. "I'm a bookkeeper," laughed the Hal High graduate, who now attends school in Montreal for accounting. "But I always loved drawing and painting, so this is incredible. I've never done something like this."

Griffith credits his mom, Renee, with the opportunity to dive into his passion. "We're 'figure-outers'" he laughed, when referencing Renee, who owns Good as New Painting in Haliburton. "Any opportunity we see, we just grab onto it."

Renee and her company were tackling the River Cone when the owner of the space, Monica Scott, noted that she was looking for a mural for the back wall. "My mom knew I loved painting, and she went to the car and called me right away, asked me if I could do it."

And the rest is history.

With word spreading around the beauty and intricacy of the River Cone mural, it was only natural for Mathews-Carl to reach out when she was seeking an artist. "I'd love to see more murals by Teddy all over the county," she said.

Griffith mocked up a vision for Juna based on descriptive words from Mathews-Carl, and then went to work. "I usually draw up a concept, and then take a picture of the surface and overlay that picture," he said. "Then, I use reference points to free-hand on the wall."

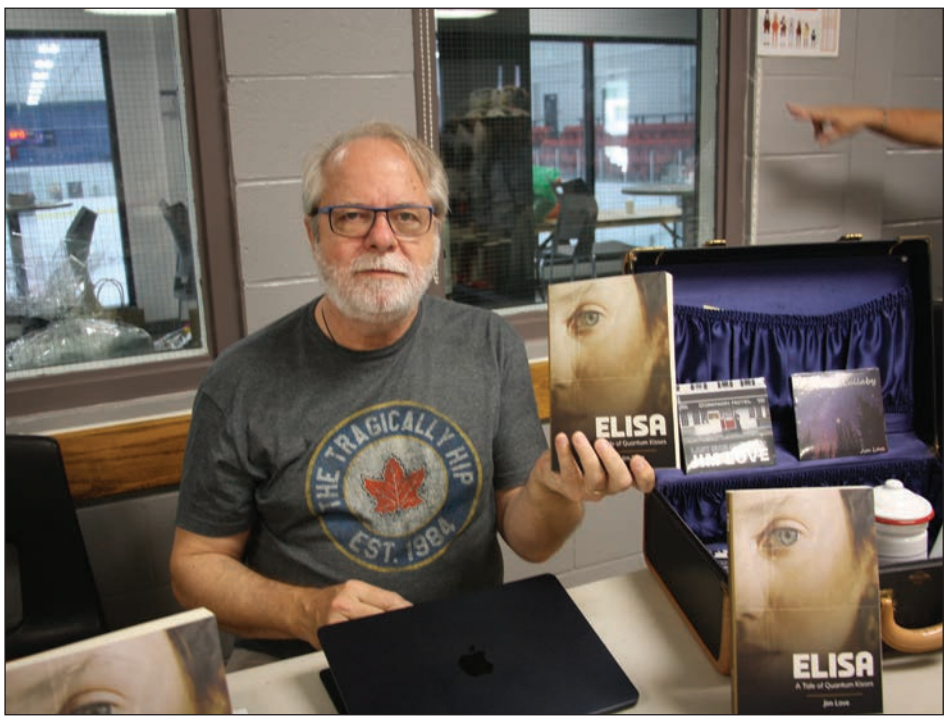
The mural has a retro yellow background, with a family on water skis riding along vintage wispy waves. What was once a plain white wall is now a destination unto itself.

The mural took four full days to complete. "It was kind of intimidating at first," said Griffith, noting the size and span of the Juna wall, "but it totally came down to the staff at Good as New Painting. It would not have been possible without the staff."

The crew worked from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. for those four days straight. And while it's nearly complete, there are a few minor details Griffith and his team intend to return to at the end of the month. "It's 95 per cent finished and 100 per cent amazing," laughed Mathews-Carl.

As for Griffith, this second mural signifies much more than paint on a wall. "I always wondered what it would be like to break into the industry," he said. "And now I know that maybe this is an option for me, maybe it's more than just a hobby, and I hope it encourages other artists to feel the same way."

A mural of Queen's leading legend, Freddie Mercury, adorns the side of the Minden River Cone. This was the first mural Griffith tackled, and put his name out into the community as a mural artist. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff



Local author Jim Love displays his new book, *Elisa, a Tale of Quantum Kisses,* at Bookapalooza this past weekend. "I came to learn more about how this is done," said Love of his first Bookapalooza. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Authors of all genres from across the country came to showcase their books over the weekend at the Minden Community Centre.

Bookapalooza features writers at all stages

from page 1

July 12. "We invite all the writers we know, all the writers we've heard about, and now, more and more, writers contact us because they've heard about what we're doing," said Tindal. "It's organic growth."

While the genres range and vary, from children's books to adult sci-fi, the common ground for all is a mutual love of reading and writing. Tindal shared that the connections between authors and attendees is the highlight of the event. "How wonderful to have that experience with the author there in person," he said. "When the story is finished and the last obsessive edits are done, we want nothing more than to introduce this new creation to the world. So I think it's those interactions, more than anything, that make Bookapalooza special."

This year's special guest was science fiction author Robert J. Sawyer. The Ottawa-born author has written 25 books that have been published, and has won the Nebula Award, the Hugo Award, multiple Aurora Awards (more than any other author to date), and a number of other Canadian and American literacy accolades. Sawyer offered an afternoon meet and greet, as well as an opportunity for dinner and dialogue at the Dominion on Saturday evening.

And while Sawyer is a particularly decorated author, Tindal noted that others at Bookapalooze are just finding their footing, many with ties to the local area. "Some use the lakes and forests of Haliburton County to tell contemporary stories; murder mysteries, coming of age stories in summer camp, fantasies, and memoirs," said Tindal. "Others write about far off places from their homes in Haliburton. So we have both a rich literary landscape here, and fertile ground for story-telling."

Tindal noted that the natural connection to literary culture marries nicely to the county's ties to the arts and music. But, like any major endeavour, "it takes a village," he said. Bookapalooza is hosted by the Arts Council for Haliburton Highlands, and is done in part with generous sponsorship from Parker Pad and the Dominion Hotel. Tindal shared that over a dozen volunteers showed up the day-of to help with the steady stream of events, and a small but mighty team meet monthly to get the show off the ground. "We welcome anyone who would like to get involved," he said, with the next meeting slated for July 31. Anyone interested is directed to connect with the Arts Council.

Dorset Tower Closure: July 16 to August 8

Please note the Dorset Scenic Lookout Tower will close to the public on Wednesday, July 16 to allow for the installation of a lightning strike protection system on the structure, as well as structural upgrades. It is anticipated this construction project will last until Friday, August 8.

Please note that the Tower park, gift shop and Peek-A-Boo Rock (which offers its own spectacular view) will remain open during this time period. Admission fees will be discounted by 50 per cent for the duration of the construction project. Please note the discount is not applicable to season passes.

Submitted

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

July 31- Regular Council Meeting

August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

GET READY FOR THE ICE!

The ice at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena will be back in and ready for Monday July 21st, 2025. All ice drop-in programs will resume at that time. Get the schedule online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or at the administrative desk at the arena.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery for the opening reception of *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, on Saturday, July 19 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Artist talk will start at 1:30 pm. Michael will also be signing copies of his recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas*. His book will be available for sale in the Gallery. The exhibit will be on display until September 13.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are open for the season! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am, Tuesday to Saturday. Coming up this week: Thursday – Heritage laundry workshop, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone, Saturday – Heritage croquet game. For a complete list of programs, visit our website.
- The Unfinished Objects Craft Group (UFOs) will be meeting at the MHCC on Friday, July 18 from 1 – 3 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for our next HHW day taking place Saturday, July 19, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

WHEN IS AN ENTRANCE PERMIT REQUIRED?

If you alter an existing driveway in any way (for example: paving or widening), you must apply for an entrance permit. Visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/entranceandwideloadpermits/ for more information.

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Rotaryfest gears up for best year yet

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Riding the heels of success with Minden's Canada Day celebration, former President of Minden Rotary Dave Woodcroft is crossing his fingers and toes that Rotaryfest will have a similar sized crowd.

While cooking under Minden Rotary's booth at Canada Day, Woodcroft was stunned to see the sheer size of crowds that flocked to Minden for the July 1 celebration.

"People are coming out to see what is going on in town," said Woodcroft excitedly.

This Rotaryfest is shaping up to be the biggest and best Rotaryfest yet. With a full slate of performers, games, and vendors, Rotaryfest will be another can't-miss event of the summer.

Performers for Rotaryfest include popular favourites like Drew Allen, Jeff Moulton, Bill Candy, Albert Saxby, and Recycled Teenagers.

Woodcroft says that they have increased the number of vendors and businesses than last year, with many vendors eagerly waiting for a call while on the waitlist.

Council answered Rotary's call for volunteers and Woodcroft is excited to announce that several politicians will be awaiting successful throwers at the dunk tank. Minden's firefighters will also be taking part and ready for the cold embrace of the water.

Water Street in Minden will also be filled with vintage cars for their classic car show for any car enthusiasts in the family.

"The Kid's Zone is going to be huge," promises Woodcroft. Between face painting and the number of games available, your kids can be entertained for hours while you visit the Farmers' Market, craft vendors, and get lunch for your entire family.

The businesses in downtown Minden are also preparing for Rotaryfest. Keep and eye out for Boshkung Brewing, The Dominion Hotel, The Minden River Cone, and other businesses with a Rotary sign in their window welcoming visitors.

There will be a 50/50 draw with all the proceeds going towards the Rotary Club of Minden. There are some fabulous prizes available to be won through their raffle this year including a Matco rolling toolbox, Argo kid's ATV, "Guide Me North" quilt made by Nancy from Studio Johnson, a "Yellow Brick Road" quilt made by Sandra Cassidy, and a Snap-On branded ping-pong table.

Woodcroft would like everyone to know that $1150 worth of their 50/50 tickets have been sold and are selling fast. Ticket sales will be ending at 2:30 p.m. on the day of the event and the draw will be taking place at 3 p.m.

Another classic event that will be taking place are minnow races, put on by volunteers from the Legion. Minden's Rotary Club has asked around about having a rubber ducky race, but have been unable to confirm the status of the event before publication. The club remains hopeful that the rubber ducky race will take place.

Woodcroft is confident that Minden is capable of having three large events for the summer. Between Canada Day, Rotaryfest, and Pride in the Highlands' celebrations, Woodcroft says that he is proud of the support of both the community and our visitors.

With each major celebration, businesses receive support, continue operating and make Minden a livelier place to be.

Minden's Rotaryfest will be taking place on Saturday Aug. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrating artists

Artist Harvey Walker stands with a self-portrait during a one-day open house for the work he and his students have accomplished over the past nine years. The variety of pieces were on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, and all were welcome to see the show on Saturday, July 12. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

"This was where it all started," said Walker of his boat house in Minden. After renovating the run-down building, Walker started offering lessons to interested individuals nine years ago. This past weekend, some of his student's pieces were on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre as a part of a one-day pop up show. For many, this was the first time their works were displayed publicly.

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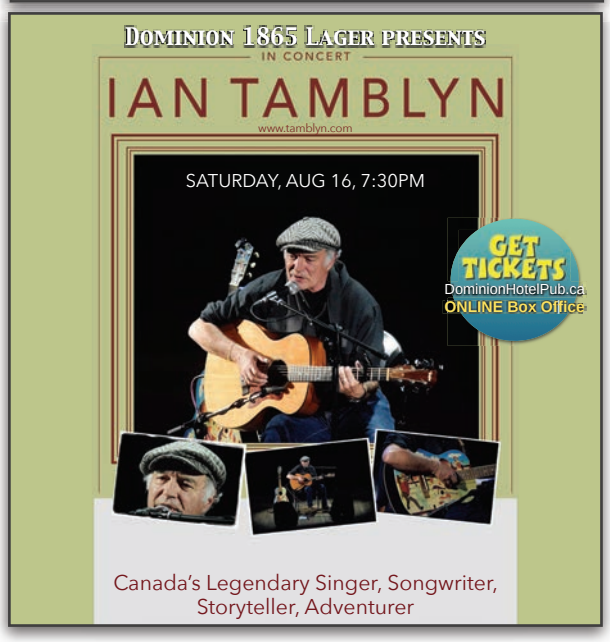

Dominion Hotel This Week

Tue Jul 15	5:00	Tiki Tuesday	Gord Kidd Trio
Sat Jul 19	6:00	Saturday Night Live	Bill Black
Sun Jul 20	4:00	Caesar Sunday Happy Hour	North Country Express
Tue Jul 22	5:00	Tiki Tuesday	Gary & Rough Ideas
Sat Jul 26	**7:30**	**Ian Reid**	**Get Tickets!**
Sun Jul 27	4:00	Caesar Sunday Happy Hour	Mixed Bag
Tue Jul 29	5:00	Tiki Tuesday	Heart & Soul
Fri Aug 1	7:30	Open Mic	Open Mic with Bo Blake Band

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Café Español continues success at Poquito Loco

ADAM FRISK

Journalist

Community members attend Café Español at Poquito Loco, Castle Antiques. /submitted

Looking to learn a new language but don't want to use a phone app? Perhaps you need a little fine tuning of your Spanish before embarking on a trip. Café Español might just be the place for you.

With more than a year now under his sombrero, founder Greg Roe is celebrating the success of Café Español.

"First of all, it's a lot of fun," Roe said in a July 9 telephone interview. "Most people are motivated to come because they have been to Spanish speaking countries or they are going to Spanish speaking countries."

Roe hosts sessions of Café Español twice a month and about 15 to roughly 20 community members come out for the free language course. The goal of the group is to allow everyone of all ages to converse and learn Spanish at a friendly rate.

"We have zero fluency to people whose native language is Spanish," Roe explained. "It's a very active group and the real cool thing about it is that you get to hear about life experiences from other people that you normally wouldn't.

"We have had some really fascinating participants," he said.

The participants of Café Español are very intergenerational, Roe explained with community members of all ages coming out to learn some Spanish.

"In the last year we have had people as young as seven to people in their late 70s," he said. "Our current incarnation, our youngest participant is 19 and ranges up to the late 70s again."

Roe, who along with his wife, Bonnie, founded the Aging Together as Community project, explained Café Español came about after speaking with the library system and noticed there was a French language workshop. So with having some experience with Spanish through his travels, Roe broached the idea with the library and the fine people at Poquito Loco restaurant at Castle Antiques.

"They were really keen on something around getting people together to just speak Spanish, so we started this about a year ago," Roe said.

And Café Español is not all just about the language.

"We look at culture, we look at food," he said. "We have had various presentations including about the Camino de Santiago … it's way more than just language."

Café Español has two sessions per se, a summer session that's hosted at the restaurant and a fall/winter session where it alternates between Minden and Haliburton libraries. The latter sessions are hosted in the afternoons to take into the account of the shorter daylight hours.

Summer sessions of Café Español meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. at Poquito Loco. Roe is encouraging anyone interested to contact him at 705-879-9412 or to email agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

Disco divas

Gals on the Green continue their weekly Tuesday evening sessions at Pinestone Golf Course. All ages and stages are welcome to join the golf adventures, with regular theme nights offered. This past week, the theme on the greens was disco. /submitted

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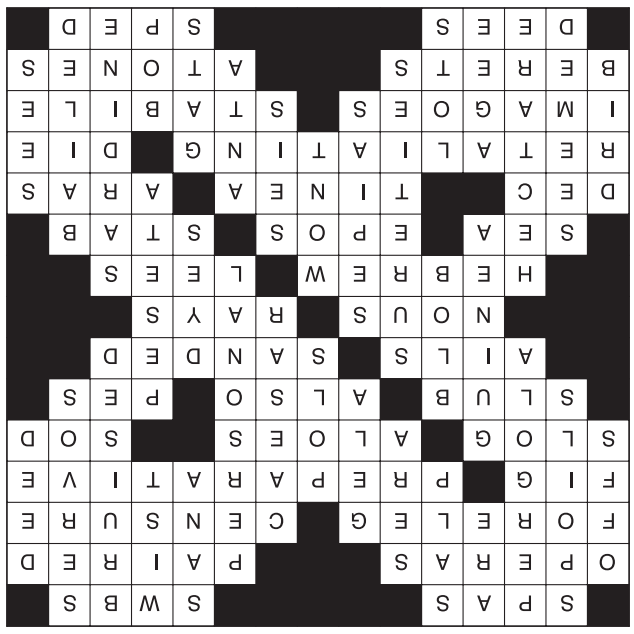
CROSSWORD ANSWERS



Salt Water Moon memories

Taliah Stephenson and Liam Mosher perform during a dress rehearsal of *Salt Water Moon*. The Highlands Summer Festival's first production 25 years ago opened with the Canadian play, written by David French. Two and a half decades later the production is back and directed by award-winning filmmaker Kate Campbell, who starred in the Highlands Summer Festival's first production of *Salt Water Moon*. The show will be running until July 22, with curtain talks set for July 16 and 20. /ADAM FRISK staff

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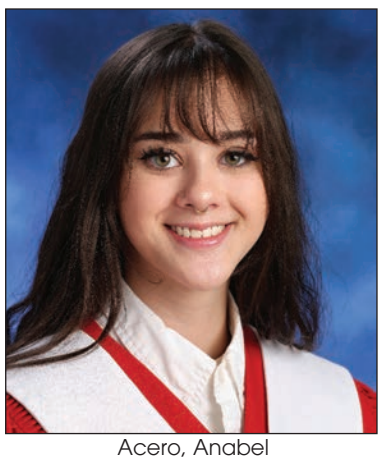
Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates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Ackerblade, Lauren

Bagshaw, Emery

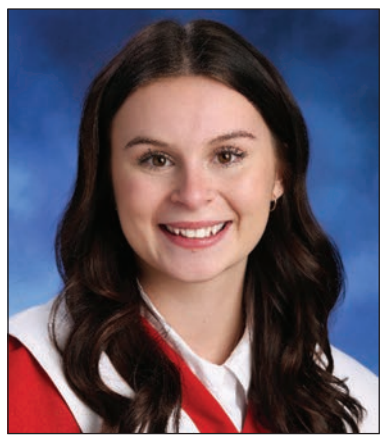
Bailey, Braiden

Bascombe, Miles

Beers, Logan

Berthelot, Simon

Bird, Haiden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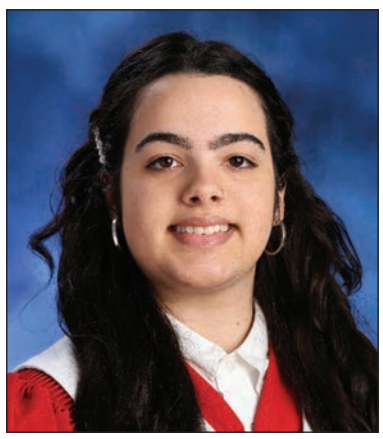
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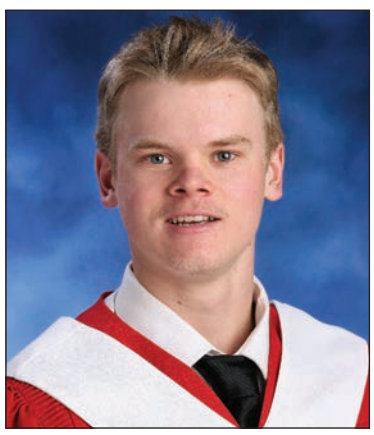
Brown, Skylar

Card, Kadin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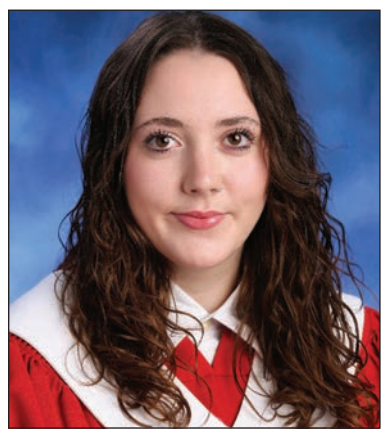
Crete, Violet


Davidson-Collins, Emma

Davis, Adam

Degeer, Cheyenne

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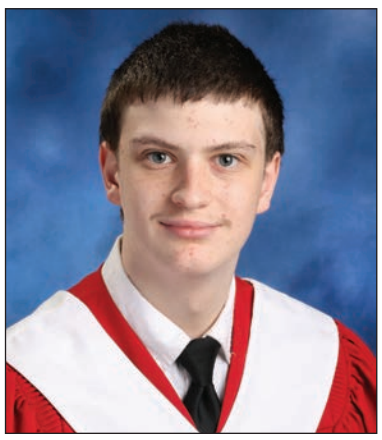
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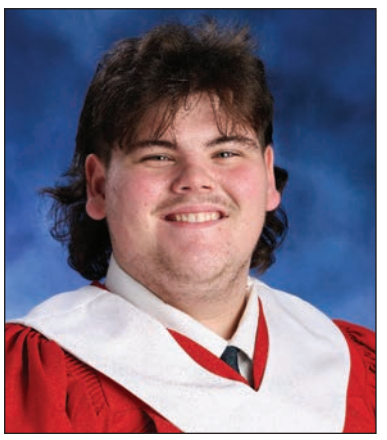
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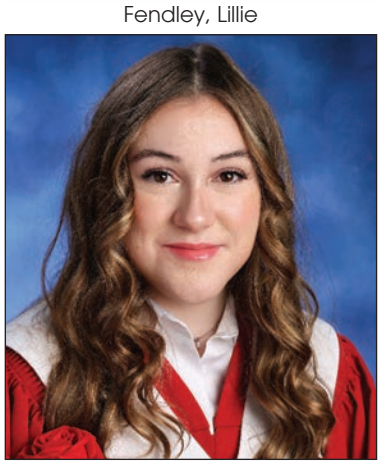
Fitzell, Emily

Gibson-Jones, Brock

Gill, Kennedy

Grajzer, Annaliese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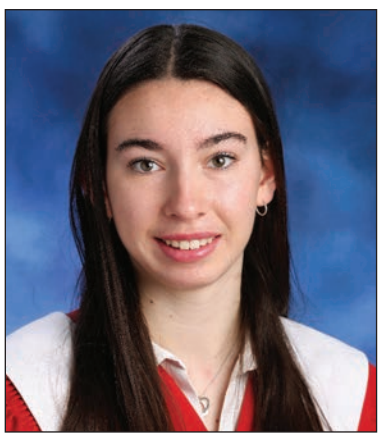
Hamilton, Cole

Hamilton, Teagan

Hartwig, Chloe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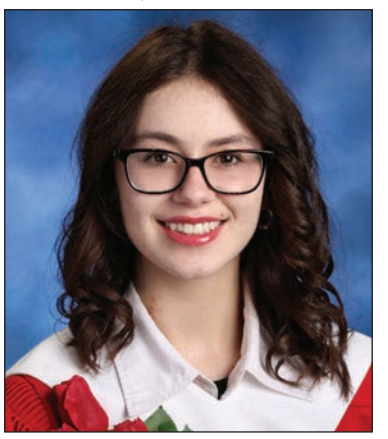
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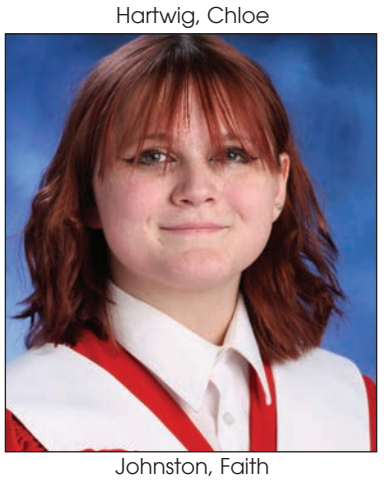
Hulme, Katy

Johnson, Maya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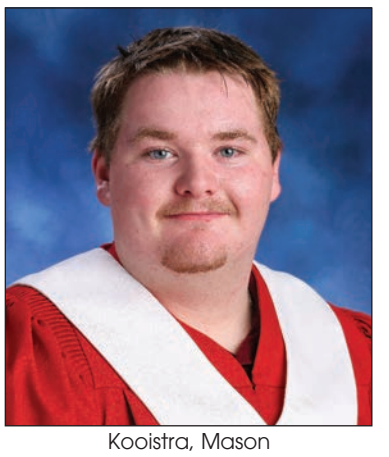
Knight, Skye


Kooistra, Mason

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Lee, Nicole

Lippolis, Andy

Maes, Tinkerbell

Mantle, Alissa

McCready-DeBruin, Jessica

McIvor, Dagon

Michael-Lyddiatt, Devon

Milley, Aiden

Mills, Liam

Moore, Sierra

Morrison, Nathan

Mylan-Goulet, Paytra

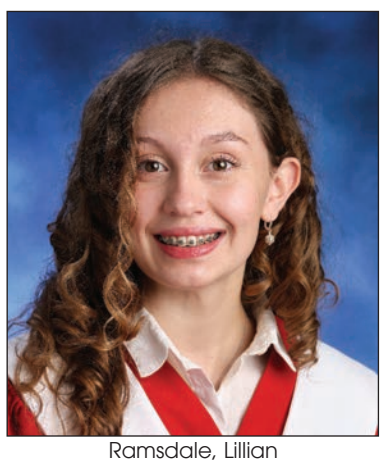
Neave, Aaron

Newell, Cameron

Nimigon, Cohen

Pietryszyn, Parker

Prentice, Mak

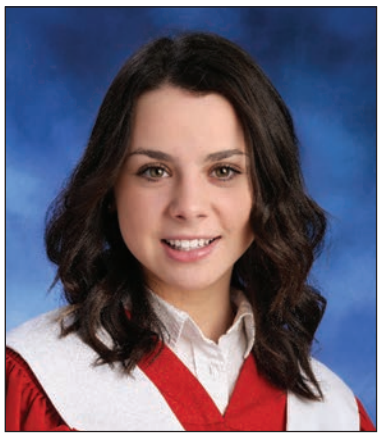

Ramsdale, Lillian

Class of 2025

Raposo, Wyatt

Reynolds, Beckam

Rogers, Stephanie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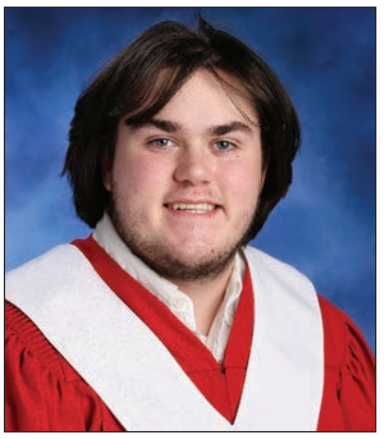
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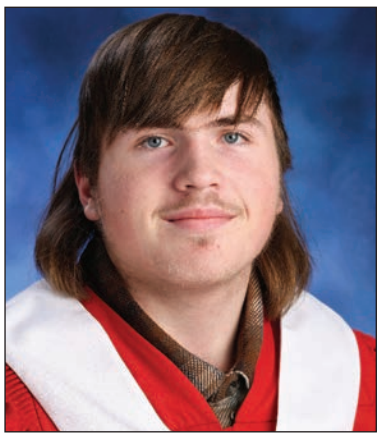
Sharp, Hannah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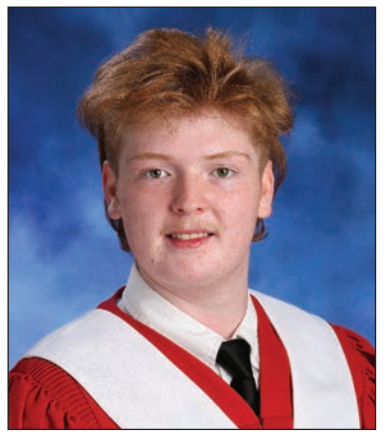
Stephen, Daniel

Thompson, Jocelyn

Thorn, Hayden

Titus, Jackson

Upton, Spencer


Vale, Logan

Verstege, Logan

Volochkov, William

Weatherbee-McMullen, Sirena

Wilson, Kyra

Yates, Tea

Zagorska, Valerie

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates

Valedictorian - Miles Bascombe

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School 2025 valedictorian Miles Bascombe addresses the graduating class on June 26. /ADAM FRISK staff

Hello everyone. My name is Miles Bascombe and I hate moving. I have to move three times this summer. My dad is moving. My mom is moving, and I am moving. When moving, not only do you have to say goodbye to a place you have called home for what seems like forever, but you have to pack everything up and move it as well. That is a terrible combo. I have moved a couple of times in my young life, so I can tell you that the underlying fear when moving is how your life will change. It is terrifying. Having a new house, new neighbours, a new room, and being in a new town is a lot to deal with. However, I know that I will be okay this summer. I have persevered through moving before, so I know that I can again. The same goes for every other change that will take place now that we are graduating. Switching schools, switching routines, switching jobs, living in a new town. I know that I will make it through, and I know that our graduates will too, like we all have many times before. They say that "a change is as good as a rest." I sure hope so!

I would now like to take a moment to give thanks. First to the graduating class for electing me as their valedictorian. I am truly honoured to have this title, so thank you. I would also like to give thanks to my mom and my dad for always being loving and supportive. Unfortunately and fortunately for me, they have always presented a united front. Good job guys! I love you and could not do anything I do without you. The same can be said for the rest of my family. Thank you all for always believing in me.

Staff, students, friends, family, platform party, and most importantly graduates. Thank you all for coming. What a wonderful night it has been. To see our graduates walk across the stage, watching everyone get their moment that they worked so hard to achieve, it's truly amazing. Words can not describe how important this night is, but that is literally my job, so I will give it my best shot. Our graduates have persevered through a great deal of adversity to get here. With the world seemingly falling apart over and over again, with the country actually

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Class of 2025
The future is yours, graduates!
We wish you health, happiness and success today and always.
Haliburton FOODLAND
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Class of 2025

being on fire, freak ice storms, another Maple Leafs season without a cup, a literal global pandemic, Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, and so much more, it can all be a little overwhelming. Many of us have also endured personal complications like family deaths, sicknesses, addiction, lack of motivation, mental health issues, physical health issues, financial issues, and stress, but every graduate here today fought through their struggles, through these changes, through the weight of the world, and completed this crucial phase of their life. That is truly something to celebrate. We mourn those who could not be here with us today and know that they are with us in spirit. We can use today, this moment, to celebrate what the graduating class of 2025 has accomplished. Walking across this stage here tonight, shaking Mrs. Mills' hand, receiving our fake diploma, and eventually getting the heck out of here for the last time. That's truly impressive.

Being proud Red Hawks has taught us many things. We learned both our talents, and our shortcomings. We surprised ourselves with our performances, and we discovered our limits. We learned to trust ourselves, and to believe in ourselves. If you don't believe in yourself, take a moment to remember your greatest high school achievement. Maybe it was winning Kawarthas, COSSA, or OFSAA, maybe it was getting that one good test back, truly breaking a leg in a school play like *Clue*, or completing the academic comeback of the century to pass your class. Whatever it was just know that you did it, whatever your achievement was, it was great. Take that and believe in yourself, trust yourself. You can do it. Change is coming. Take the lessons that you have learned, spread your wings, and fly Red Hawks.

Another lesson that we learned in high school, arguably the most important one, is that our wonderful English teacher Mr. Dobson was in the movie *Camp Rock*. In a brown shirt and blue jeans. Around the 15:28 mark you can see him just jamming in the background. And at the 15:35 mark he actually stepped aside from the crowd to the right of the screen to stand out, or just so one day it could be mentioned in a speech. Go watch *Camp Rock* everyone. You're welcome Mr. Dobson. It paid off.

We have also all made a lot of memories during our time here. To be clear, most of the following are general memories from the grads, not necessarily mine. Are you all ready… Buckle up! Memories include; winning championships like OFSAA field hockey, losing championships, getting dunked on, crashing your 2009 Honda Civic into a tree, five for 25, air balling four straight free throws in practice, acing tests, failing tests, successful oil changes in auto, unsuccessful oil changes, masterpieces in woodworking, culinary explosions in foods, culinary atrocities in foods, dissecting frog eyes in science, hitting personal records in personal fitness, socializing instead of working in the library, successfully and unsuccessfully predicting snow days with Mrs. Klose, vomiting on the one kilometre run, falling face first into poison ivy, falling face first into a pile of leaves, making new friends, crazy parties, sitting too close to the fire and making your entire laundry load smell like smoke, Grade 11 English, working too hard, not working hard enough, awkward school dances, live duck promposals, *Clue*, Singing at the top of our lungs on bus rides home from sports whether you lost or won by 20, impactful clubs, ice bucket challenges, senior splashing for all of two weeks, colour runs, candy cane hail storms at Christmas banquets, pow wows, and on a personal note, becoming prom royalty. Our time here will never be forgotten in this special little county. We had it good here. When change comes you will always remember the good old days at Hal High. Do not be sad for what you lost, be happy for what you had. Celebrate it. That is why we are here tonight after all.

Although things are about to change, it is important for us to embrace the change no matter how much we fear it. It is going to be tough. Dark times may lie ahead, and so you must change with them. This may leave you feeling a little helpless at times, but remember how you dealt with change in the past. Think back to the transition to high school from Grade 8 to Grade 9. That first day you walked in and thought that the school was huge. How do you feel about it now? It is not that huge. You got used to it. Or how your new house felt when you first moved in. It did not feel like a home, but eventually it became one. Coping with change is crucial. It shapes you as a human being. Perseverance through change creates grit. Accepting change creates empathy. Conquering change creates confidence. Change can be scary, but it sets us up for future success. Whatever changes you have been through, through your successes and mistakes, your proud moments and the ones you regret. You. Got. Through. You did it! So when change comes for you, whether it's tomorrow, this summer, come the first or 21st night of September, remember that no matter how scary change is, it can benefit you, so let it. You have gotten through it before, and you will again.

I would like to again thank all of our friends and family for spending your hard earned gas money to celebrate here with us today. We could not have done it without you. We do not always show it, but we appreciate everything that you sacrifice and do for us. Thank you to the platform party for volunteering your time for the sake of the graduates. Thank you to the incredible staff at HHSS for always teaching, managing, and cleaning up after us. Finally, to the graduates and my friends. Yes mom, I have friends, I'm just introverted. Whether we are close, were once close, are getting closer, or are just chill. Thank you. You have made me a better person and I have at least enjoyed your company once at some point. For real guys, thanks for everything. I could not have made it without you. Thank you again for the honour of being your valedictorian. We will miss our time at HHSS, but better times are on their way. I am very grateful to have spent the last four years with you. As you go through the rest of this year, and life gets a little hard, just remember that as of 12:00 a.m. yesterday we are more than halfway to Christmas. I know that not everyone is a fan of Christmas, but just know that I'll be impatiently counting down the days. Times are changing, change with them. Happy holidays everyone. Good luck and goodbye.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Graduates

Award & Bursary Recipients

Lauren Ackerblade
Emery Bagshaw
Miles Bascombe
Logan Beers
Simon Berthelot
Haiden Bird
Eva Bliedung
Annabelle Borgdorff
Weston Bowker
Olivia Brown
Skylar Willow Brown
Kadin Card
Colby Coumbs
Violet Crete
Emma Davidson-Collins
Adam Davis
Cheyenne Degeer
Micheal Dewitt
Taliah Dumas-Stephenson
Dalton Fairey
Lillie Fendley
Emily Fitzell
Brock Gibson-Jones
Kennedy Gill
Annaliese Grajzer
Gracie Griffith
Ashton Haaijema
Cole Hamilton
Teagan Hamilton
Chloe Hartwig
Erika Hoare
Adela Hubbard
Katy Hulme
Faith Johnston
Mason Kooistra
Jacy Lafontaine
Isaac Lee
Nicole Lee
Andy Lippolis
Kurtis Madill
Alissa Mantle
Jessica McCready-DeBruin
Aiden Milley
Liam Mills
Sierra Moore
Nathan Morrison
Paytra Mylan-Goulet
Cohen Nimigon
Parker Pietryszyn
Mak Prentice
Lillian Ramsdale
Wyatt Raposo
Beckam Reynolds
Stephanie Rogers
Jayde Rowden
Cayden Russell
Acadia Saulnier
Hannah Sharp
Owen Sisson
Daniel Stephen
Jocelyn Thompson
Hayden Thorn
Jackson Titus
Logan Vale
William Volochkov
Sirena Weatherbee-McMullen
Kyra Wilson
Tea Yates

School Letters

Annabelle Borgdorff
Erika Hoare
Lillian Ramsdale

Principal's Award for Student Leadership

Lillian Ramsdale

Lieutenant Governor's Award for Community Service

Annabelle Borgdorff

Governor General's Academic Medal

Annabelle Borgdorff

Specialist High Skills Major Hospitality and Tourism

Annaliese Grajzer
Katy Hulme
Faith Johnston
Jessica McCready-DeBruin

Environment

Anabel Acero
Olivia Brown
Lillie Fendley
Kurtis Madill
Aiden Milley
Stephanie Rogers
Jackson Titus
Valerie Zagorska
Cameron Newell
Andrew Ranson
Cayden Russell
Logan Vale
Logan Verstege

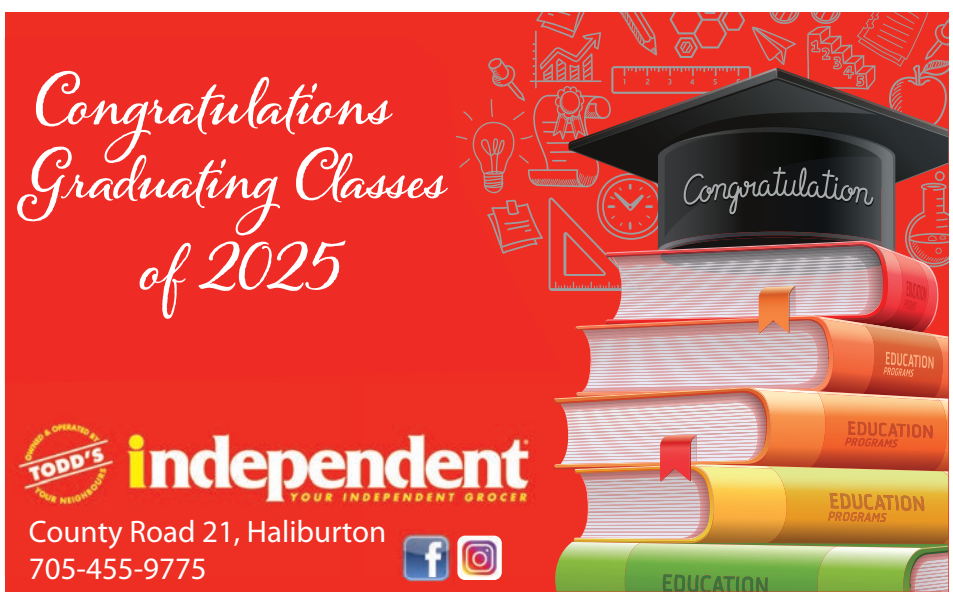
Extended French Certificate

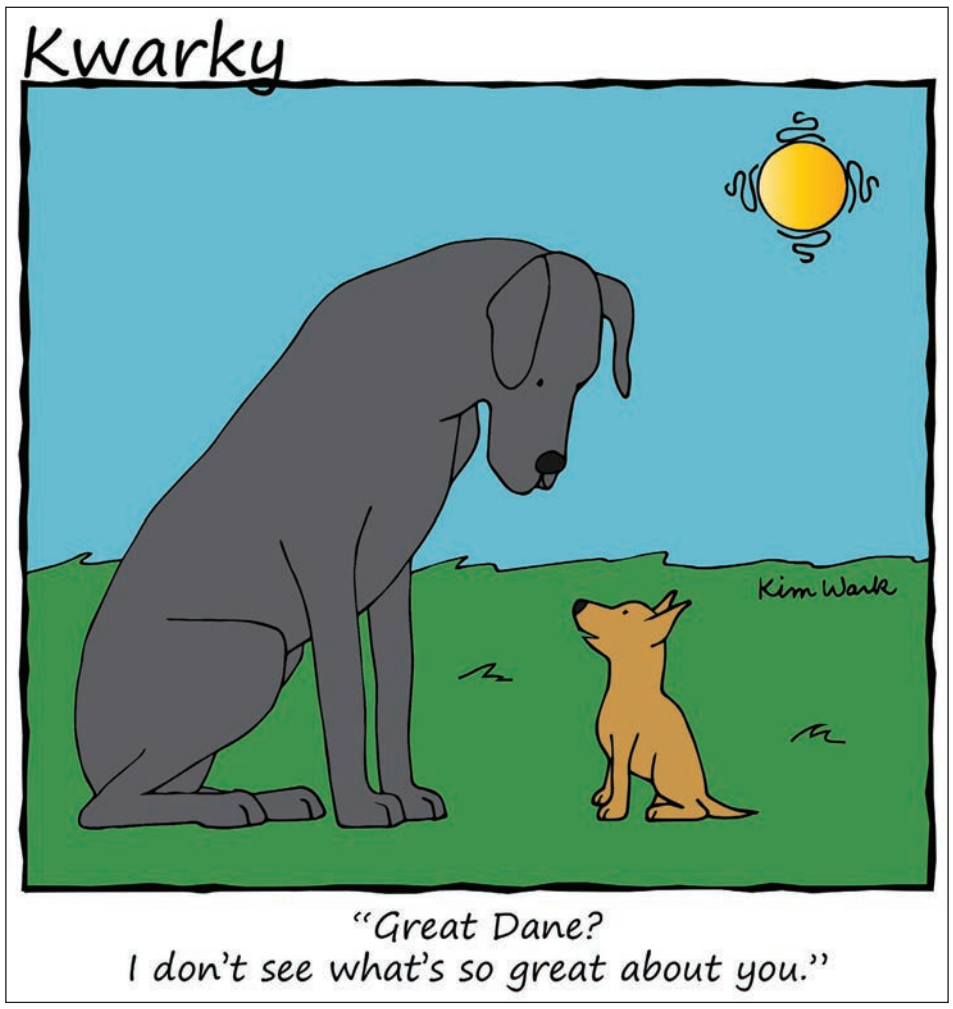
Annabelle Borgdorff
Violet Crete
Taliah Dumas-Stephenson
Erica Hoare
Adela Hubbard
Sierra Moore
Paytra Mylan-Goulet
Tea Yates

Honour Society

Emery Bagshaw
Miles Bascombe
Logan Beers
Eva Bliedung
Annabelle Borgdorff
Weston Bowker
Skylar Willow Brown
Adam Davis
Cheyenne Degeer
Emily Fitzell
Cole Hamilton
Teagan Hamilton
Chloe Hartwig
Erika Hoare
Maya Johnson
Nicole Lee
Alissa Mantle
Liam Mills
Sierra Moore
Mak Prentice
Lillian Ramsdale
Stephanie Rogers
Jayde Rowden
Hannah Sharp
Jocelyn Thompson
Jackson Titus
William Volochkov

To be eligible for Honour Roll you must have an average of 80 per cent or higher in your top six senior courses taken in your graduating year (they do not all have to be Grade 12 courses). If you have achieved Honours in all four years at HHSS, you become a member of the Honour Society. To be eligible for Ontario Scholar, you must have an average of 80 per cent or higher in your top six Grade 12 courses, no matter what year they are taken in.





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SUDOKU

		9						4
2			8					
		7	1	4				6
		5			1			
7	2	4	3				6	
	6							3
	1		4				2	9
6			7		3			1

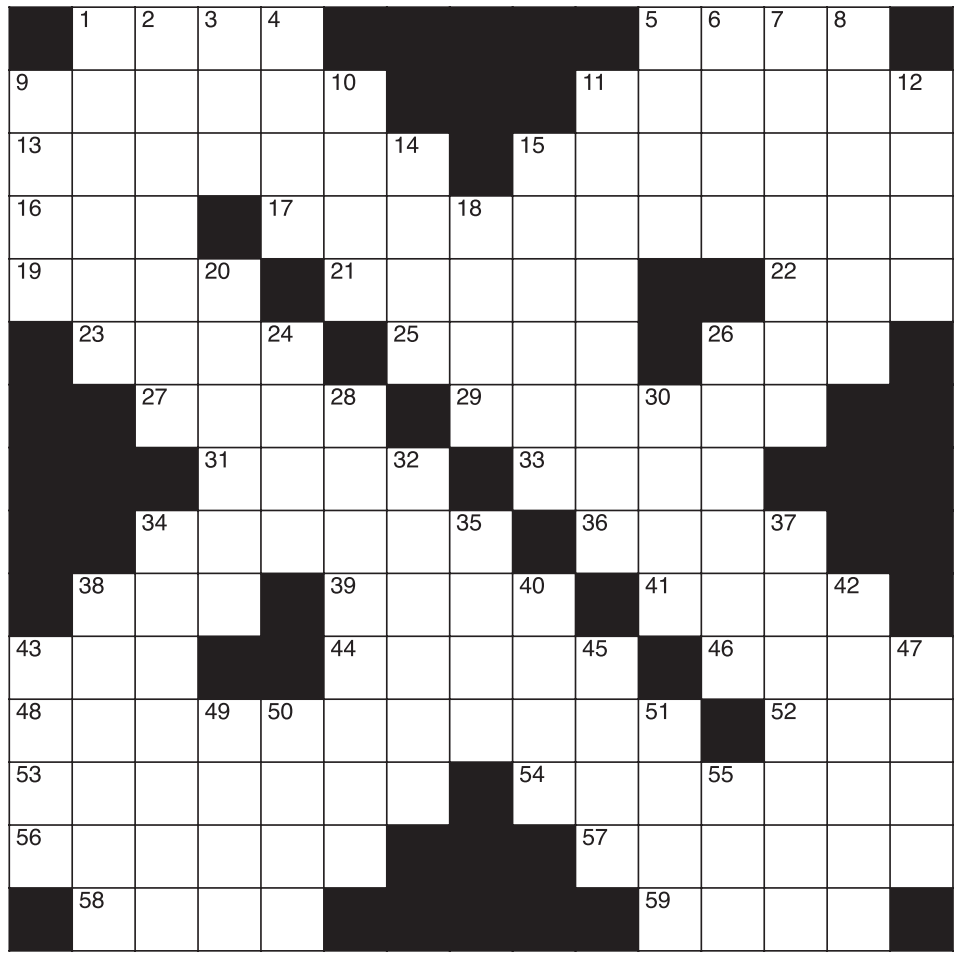
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18



CLUES ACROSS
1. Resorts
5. One point south of southwest
9. Musical performances
11. Matched
13. Four-footed animal part
15. Express severe disapproval of
16. Type of leaf
17. Preparatory
19. Walk heavily
21. Succulent plants
22. Rectangle of grass
23. Lump in yarn
25. Too
26. Foot (Latin)
27. Afflicts
29. Smoothed
31. Mind (Greek)
33. Tampa ballclub
34. Semitic language
36. Sheltered sides
38. Ocean
39. Electronic point of sale
41. Thrust a knife into
43. 12th month (abbr.)
44. Ringworm
46. Father of Aoris (Greek myth.)
48. Fighting back
52. Cease to exist
53. Insects in adult stage
54. Freestanding sculpture
56. Caps
57. Repents
58. Brown and Wallace are two
59. Moved quickly

CLUES DOWN
1. Goes bad
2. Yard structure
3. They __
4. Marine invertebrate
5. European river
6. Office supplies firm
7. Physically abused
8. Service stations in Australia
9. Kills
10. Liquid body substances
11. Particular to a given individual
12. Brave or noble act
14. Sicilian city
15. Conqueror
18. Elected officials
20. Type of "pig"
24. Drop of viscous substance
26. Monetary unit of Spain
28. Guarantees
30. Coloring materials
32. Reddish browns
34. Square measure
35. Will not
37. Canned fish
38. Appeared
40. Six (Spanish)
42. Took off
43. Negligible amount
45. Posts in a Greek temple
47. Witnesses
49. Phil __, former CIA
50. Places to park
51. Guns
55. Dance to pop music

Answers on page 18

Classifieds

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for a

Senior Planner

Reporting to the Director of Planning, the Senior Planner manages the day-to-day workflow of development applications, provides professional planning opinions, and holds responsibility for Land Division Committee meetings. The successful applicant will hold a university degree in Planning or a related field and possess 4 years of related municipal experience. They will also be a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP) in good standing, with a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) designation with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI).

This position reports to the County of Haliburton Administration Office, Monday - Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm. The salary range is $100,260.30 to $117,290.37 and includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on July 31st, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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COMING EVENTS

SIRCH community services

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 22, 2025
5:30 pm
SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Reports from Staff, Auditor's Report and Election of Directors. Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.
Phone: 705-457-1742
Email: info@sirch.on.ca

LESSONS/CLASSES

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

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gramma, gramma-great,
and friend.

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Deadline Friday at 12 pm

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Jacqueline "Jackie" Lenore Davis (nee Mason)

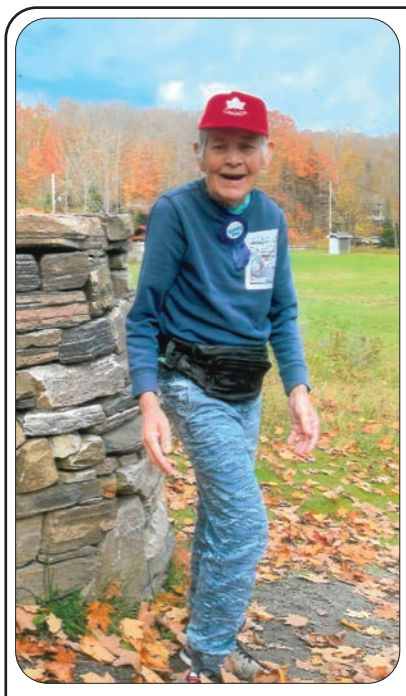
Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, July 6, 2025 surrounded by her loving family.

Beloved wife of the late Bryan (2013). Loving mother of Dennise (Ron) and predeceased by Danny (1995). Daughter of the late Pearl and John Mason. Dear sister of Zetta May (Alex), Helen (Moses – deceased), Darlene (Royce – deceased), Bobby (deceased), Johnny (deceased) (Nancy), Rosezetta (Shane) and Perry. Sister-in-law of Dennis (Susan). Jackie will be missed by her many friends and family.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd. 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Monday, July 21, 2025 from 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm. Graveside Interment Service at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 14289 Durham Regional Rd. 39, Zephyr, Ontario L0E 1T0 on Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at 11:00 am. Reception to follow at the Egypt Hall, 6756 Smith Blvd., Egypt, Ontario L0E 1R0.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com



James Meldrum

Resident of Haliburton

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of James Meldrum, peacefully on July 10, 2025.

Everyone that has met James knows that James celebrated his Birthday every day! Forever our Birthday Guy - James completed his outfit each day with his Birthday Button and a good hat. James was quick with an invite, "take me for coffee and smoke" to anyone and everyone he met.

James will be missed by his extended family, Carol Prindiville/Main as he was a part of their family for 23 years. James enjoyed and looked forward to their Vacation time and Special Holiday Dinners.

James' love for Haliburton was immense. His family and friends at Mountain Street, friends at Victoria Street, his mail run jobs, and being seen every day out and about in his community, which brightened Everyone's day.

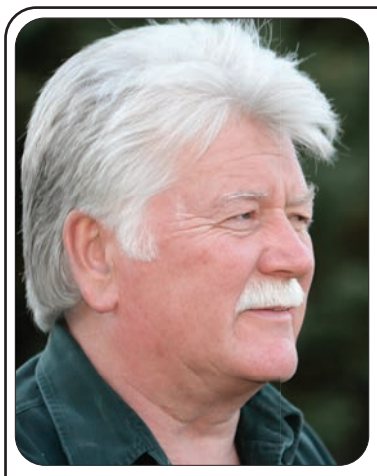
Haliburton will never be the same!! Forever in our Hearts!

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a service celebrating James' life on Friday, July 18, 2025 at 12:00 (noon). Visitation will take place one hour prior, beginning at 11:00. An Interment will follow the service at Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations in James' memory can be made towards Community Living - Haliburton.

Community Funeral Home

www.communityfuneralhomes.com



Rodney "Rod" Roberts

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully surrounded by family and friends at Haliburton Hospital on Monday, July 7th, 2025, in his 71st year.

Beloved husband of Pamela Marlene Roberts (nee Schell). Loving father of Vanessa Marlene Roberts (Jonny Brouwer) and Logan Stanley Roberts (Dr. Meghan Goodrow). Predeceased by his Mother Irene Roberts (nee Bain), Father Stan Roberts.

His absence will be deeply felt by his grandchildren: Charlotte and Tommy Brouwer, and Brinton and McKye Roberts. Dearly missed by his sister, Maxine Magee (nee Roberts) and her husband Wim, as well as his brother Cleve Roberts and his Wife Liane (nee Whitfield).

Rod was predeceased by his Mother-in-law, Ruth Schell (nee Curry), and Father-in-law, Leslie Schell. He will be fondly remembered by his Brother-in-law, Luke Schell, and his Wife, Shelley (nee Thomson). His memory will be cherished by his many fabulous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and his many friends.

Visitation & Celebration of Life

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for a Celebration of Rod's life beginning at 1:00 (Visitation 2 hours prior.) As an expression of sympathy, donations in Rod's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

Community Funeral Home

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In Loving Memory of

Robert Scott Vasey
October 24, 1966 – July 6, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Robert Scott Vasey, who left us peacefully on July 6, 2025.

Scott is lovingly remembered by his daughter Kyra Vasey (Greg Clements), his son Braeden Vasey (Sara Bull), their mother Jenny Rendall and his cherished granddaughter Tatum Vasey. He also leaves behind his beloved partner Colleen Bagshaw, who stood by his side with unwavering love and support.

He is predeceased by his father Gary Vasey. He is survived by his mother, Jeanne Egan (91); his brother Ted Vasey (Susie Vasey); his sisters Lesley Anne Killoran (Bernie Killoran), Patti Lou Robinson (Michael Robinson), as well as many adored nieces and nephews who brought joy to his life.

Born and raised in Bradford, Ontario, Scott spent much of his youth between home and the family cottage in Minden, where his love for the outdoors began. He graduated from Fleming College with a diploma in Fish and Wildlife, laying the foundation for a life spent immersed in the natural world. In his late twenties, Scott travelled across North America working as a salesman for Ian Jones Sales Limited, and later became a licensed life Insurance Advisor with Sun Life Financial, retiring at the young age of 48. Retirement marked a return to his true passion—fish and wildlife. If there was an open hunting season anywhere, Scott was ready and in his element. His time at the hunt camp became not only his favourite pastime but a source of lifelong friendships and cherished memories.

Scott lived life fully and authentically. He was passionate, generous, and endlessly devoted to his family and friends. His presence, laughter, and stories will be profoundly missed by all who knew him.

A Celebration of Scott's Life will be held at the West Guilford Community Centre, 1061 Kennisis Lake Road, West Guilford on Friday, August 1, 2025 with visitation from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm with tributes starting at 2:00 pm.

Let's carry Scott's legacy forward by spreading the same love and generosity he shared with the world. If you feel moved to make a donation in his memory, please consider doing so in a way that reflects what Scott stood for: helping others without expectation.

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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO
AND MINDEN RECORDER

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Council stymied as rail hearing date announced

Haliburton County council has been stymied in its efforts to have a hearing on the fate of the Lindsay/Haliburton rail line delayed. The Railway Transport Committee of the Canadian Transportation Commission has served formal notice that it will hold a public hearing in Lindsay July 22 to hear CNR's application to close the 54.96 mile long line.

No rail traffic has moved beyond Kinmount since 1978, when a washout north of the hamlet made the line unusable. CN refused to repair the line, despite pressure from local councils, claiming its engineers had set repair costs at more than $75,000.

The railway claims losses from the operation of the line of $181,843 in 1975, $172,614 in 1976, and $151, 546 in 1977. Loss figures for 1978 and 1979 will be made public at the hearing, according to the notice from the commission.

Council had sought to delay the hearing pending completion of a feasibility study for a proposed tourist train on the line. The study is a joint venture between Haliburton and Victoria Counties, The Town of Lindsay, and the Ministry of Industry and Tourism.

The hearing is scheduled to get underway at 10 a.m., July 22 at the county court house, Francis Street, Lindsay.

Anyone who wants to make a submission in respect to CN's application can do so my mailing it to the Acting Secretary, Railway Transport Committee, Canadian Transportation Commission, Ottawa, at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.

Anyone who wishes to can also present their views on the abandonment at the hearing.

Coroner's jury rules man dead

A coroner's jury made only one recommendation at an inquest last week into the death of a snowmobiler earlier this year.

The jury, holding its hearing in Minden last Thursday, established that Reginald Arthur Albert Fulcher, 33, of 66 Merkley Square in Scarborough, died as a result of

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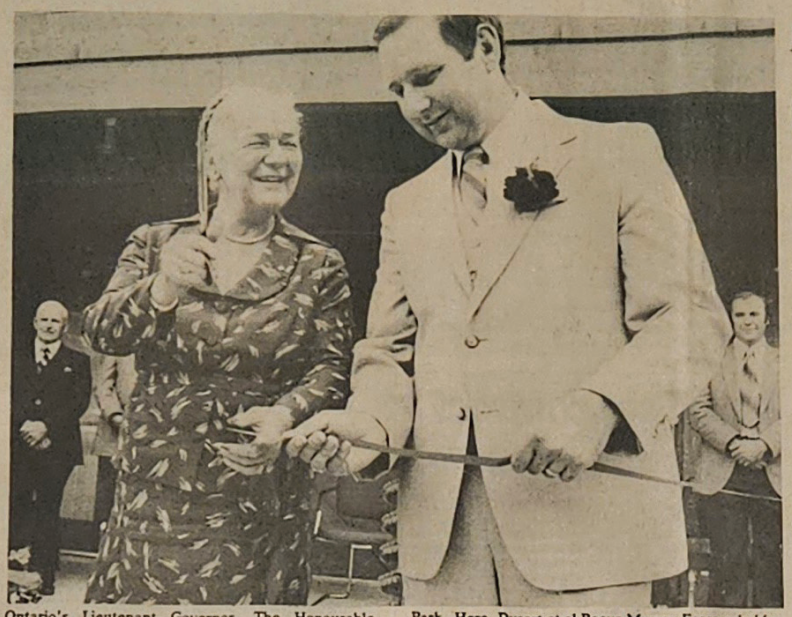

Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable Pauline McGibbon, was in Haliburton Sunday afternoon to officiate at the opening ceremonies of the new Haliburton Highlands Pioneer Museum at Glebe Park. Here, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey holds the ribbon her honour has just snipped. Looking on are County Warden Malcolm McGillivray, left, and museum committee chairman Frank Wallace, right.

Day caps two and a half years of work

New museum officially opened

More than two and a half years of effort were capped Sunday afternoon as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Pauline M. McGibbon, snipped the ribbon to officially open the new quarters of the Haliburton Highlands Pioneer Museum.

The ceremony marked the culmination of a joint project between the municipality of Dysart et al, the Haliburton Rotary Club, and other community groups which began in January, 1978.

Scores of citizens, the Haliburton Legion Pipe Band, museum committee representatives and a number of local dignitaries were on hand for the 2 p.m. opening.

Earlier in the day, the vice-regal party was entertained at a luncheon at the PineStone Inn hosted by the municipality.

The Legion Pipe Band formed the colour guard and provided the music as Mrs. McGibbon and her party were met in front of the museum by Dysart et al reeve Murray Fearrey.

In his remarks before the ribbon cutting, the reeve paid tribute to all those who had helped make the new building a reality, and especially to the Haliburton Rotary Club, sponsors of the first pioneer museum in the village, who committed $25,000 to the present museum. Fearrey also praised the late Napier Simpson, former Stanhope councillor and architect for the project.

Noting that the new facility is the first step in a long range plan for development of the Glebe Park museum site, Fearrey said building upon it would be challenge for the future.

Principal speaker J. Douglas Hodgson, director of education for the Haliburton County school board, highlighted the history of development in Haliburton County, and of the museum site in particular. The 200-acre Glebe Park site had been a gift from the Canadian Land and Immigration Company to the Anglican Church, Hodgson said. In the 1960's it was sold to the municipality on the condition that it be used for public purposes.

In concluding his remarks, Hodgson quoted the last lines of Nila Reynolds, "In Quest of Yesterday", in which she notes that for those who are born and grow up in Haliburton County "no other place except the Highlands of Haliburton can ever be truly 'home to the heart'."

Building committee chairman Gerald Dawson introduced the Lieutenant Governor, former chancellor of the university of Toronto, as "a lady who has demonstrated a high level of public service to the commun[illegible]."

"It is our loss that her honour will be terminating her appointment in September," Dawson said.

Before snipping the ribbon, Mrs. McGibbon congratulated the volunteers whose efforts had made the project possible. "I hope you will continue to work for the museum," she said, noting that it will provide educational opportunities not only for visitors to the area, but for local children.

Following the ceremony the Lieutenant Governor signed the guest book before museum committee member Jane Heyes guided the vice regal party on a tour of the museum and renovated Reid house.

Move will cost ratepayers almost $3000

Glamorgan backs down on hiring, two resign

by Sue Cooper

In the wake of Glamorgan Township council's reversal of a decision to hire a non-resident as road superintendant, two councillors have resigned.

Resignations from deputy reeve Ken Maguire and councillor Glenn Graham were tabled at the June 23 meeting of council. This was the seventh meeting of council within three weeks.

Since that time Graham has withdrawn his resignation while Maguire said Tuesday he might reconsider.

Graham said he tendered his resignation because he was very upset about the problems council was having with ratepayers over the hiring of a non-resident as road superintendant.

A delegation armed with a petition approached council at its June 17 meeting to protest the hiring of Edward Bryan of Keene, Ontario.

Graham said the delegation's protest had influenced his decision to resign but he then realized there were other people in the township who had voted him into office and he should try to fulfill his term for these people.

Maguire said he resigned because of health and personal reasons but might reconsider if he feels better.

"I'll still help out in any way I can," he said.

Council reversed its decision to hire Bryan at its June 23 meeting with only councillors Joe Fecht, Robert McCausland and reeve Robert Fotheringham present.

Since the township had sent a letter to Bryan stating he had been accepted for the position, the township is being held responsible for expenses Bryan incurred in anticipation of the job.

Council notified Bryan he would have to provide a half ton pick-up truck for township duties. The township would pay him mileage for the vehicle.

Because of its change of mind council had to purchase the truck from Bryan and pay the repair bills which were submitted.

This truck is now for sale by the municipality, according to councillor Joe Fecht.

Council has also had to pay Bryan $1,424.80, which is the difference between his present salary and the salary of the road superintendant for a six-month period.

As well, council paid $50 to cover Bryan's legal fees.

Confusion surrounds the entire matter of hiring and the reverse decision not to hire Bryan as road superintendant.

Initially, council received 16 applications for the position and decided to interview five candidates. Those to be interviewed were asked to attend council on June 7. Thomas Adair, Terry McGregor, Vince Billings and Edward Bryan were interviewed for the position by council. The fifth applicant, Patrick Mousseau, was unable to attend.

On June 10 council passed a motion to hire Edward Bryan as road superintendant. Voting yea were Robert Fotheringham, Ken Maguire, Joe Fecht and Glenn Graham. Robert McCausland was the sole nay voter.

Although reeve Fotheringham said on Monday "I told council when Jim Manley resigned that I didn't care

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Teachers get 7.5% increase as one year contract ratified

Haliburton County Board of Education and its secondary school teachers have reached a contract settlement that calls for a 7½ percent increase in the 1980/81 school year.

The agreement was ratified by the board Thursday, and by the teachers on Friday, the last day of the school year.

Coupled with a 1.2 percent cost of living increase folded into the salary grid in June under the terms of last year's agreement, the new contract will produce salaries ranging from $14,935 for a beginning teacher with minimum qualifications to a high of $32,495 for a teacher with ten years experience and top qualifications.

Remuneration for extra responsibilities will also increase under the new contract. Department heads will receive $2,450, an increase of $250 over last year, while minor department heads will be paid an additional $1850, an increase of $200 over the 1979/80 contract.

Only other changes in the new contract deal with redundancy and the grievance procedure.

Cheryl Murdock, trustee from Lutterworth who negotiated on behalf of the board, said the redundancy clause, which sets out the rules that will apply if staff reductions are necessitated by declining enrolment, is "basically the same as the elementary school clause, with the exception that it is modified to fit the department structure" at the high school.

The board had sought to have department heads and minor department heads pro-

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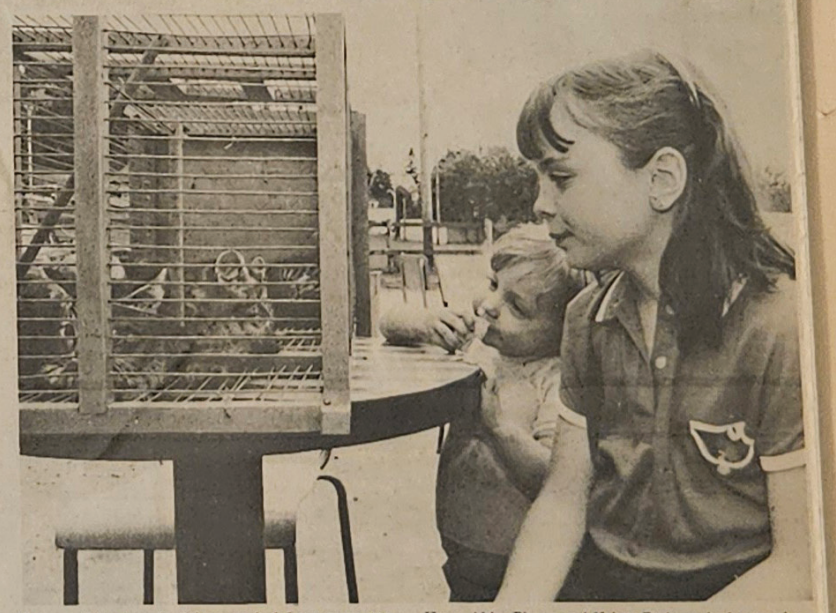

Not everything for sale at the squash club extravaganza Saturday ran to baked goods, rummage and used appliances. There were also some kittens up for grabs.

Here, Abby Pierce and Krista Rydman look over the litter with longing eyes.

If you think jumping out of an airplane might be just the tonic you need to put some excitement back in your life, you're in luck, The Parachute School of Toronto has set up shop at Stanhope airport and after a few hours of instruction, you can make your first jump. Echo reporter Sue Cooper tried it Friday, and though it was definitely a thrill,

Council wants owners to pay bill for culverts

Nearly a dozen ratepayers on Anson and North Water Streets in Minden will receive final notice within the next few weeks on a bill for driveway repairs and culvert installations.

The work was completed last year by municipal road workers when the streets were repaved following sewer installation. Shortly afterward, property owners were sent bills for $137.60, the standard charge for culvert and driveway work throughout the municipality, but they have so far refused to pay. The ratepayers apparently feel they should not have to shell out because they did not ask that the work be done.

Although there was a verbal agreement between the road superintendant and the property owners, no formal agreement for the work was ever signed, clerk Elinor Burke confirmed Monday.

But council will insist that the bills be paid, and will turn the matter over to a collection agency if the final notice brings no response.

Initially, council appeared ready to strike a compromise. Councillor Lyle McKnight said that if the municipality raised the road, they may have "created the problem". He felt the property owners should pay for the driveway repairs, but that the municipality should deduct the $60 cost of the culverts from the bills.

Deputy reeve Doug Pritchard took the opposite tack, saying that if the municipality agreed to pay for the crushed stone that was laid down, the property owners should pay for the culvert work.

But councillor Stuart Brandon argued against making any concessions. Before the work was done, he said, the

Cont'd. page 2

Dr. Harry Parrott to visit Haliburton

Ontario's environment minister will be in Haliburton Village, Monday night to discuss the effects of acid rain on tourism with the public.

Harry Parrott's decision to attend the meeting came in the wake of a request from the Haliburton County Echo to MPP John Eakins, and a subsequent letter from Dysart et al to the office of the minister.

The meeting will be the third public forum in an area threatened by acid rain since the minister announced new control orders on emissions from INCO's Sudbury smelter last month. The controls were announced at a meeting in Sudbury, and restated at a meeting in Muskoka several days later.

Although the topic of the Haliburton meeting is "Acid rain and its effects on tourism", the public will be invited to question the minister on other matters of concern.

The meeting gets underway at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall.

Council warns owner of Rockcliffe hotel

Complaints could mean LLBO hearing

The Liquor Licensing Board of Ontario will be asked to review the beer garden at Minden's Rockcliffe Hotel if council gets written protests about the facility, a councillor has told the hotel's owner.

Len Lonsberry said at a meeting last Wednesday that a number of ratepayers have protested to him about beer garden patrons who direct "obscene remarks" at passersby.

"It's a bad situation," Lonsberry told Dave Willis, adding that anyone who complains will be asked to put their comments in writing, and that "if we get enough, we'll ask the LLBO to review it," (the beer garden).

Two weeks ago, council considered a letter from Minden area Resident Dennis Willison in which Willison complained about youths drinking on the street and questioned the image the beer garden gave the village and the kind of clientele it attracted.

The letter drew a reply from the hotel owner's lawyer, E.J. Gardiner. In a letter to Willison, a copy of which was sent to council, Gardiner said there was no proof the beer that Willison saw youths consuming in front of Minden Drug Store had come from the Rockcliffe. The lawyer said his client had a good reputation as a businessman and citizen, and he called on Willison not to make any further allegations against the hotel or its owner.

Willis said that since the letter was read at council and its contents made public through the two local newspapers, he has been "getting

Cont'd. page 2

Road repaving in Haliburton now well ahead of schedule

The highway project through Haliburton Village is ahead of schedule and should be completed two weeks earlier than originally planned, according to project supervisor Murray Kuno.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications official said Tuesday the project got underway sooner than anticipated and workers have been moving swiftly.

Storm sewers and sidewalks have been completed with some curbs and gutters left to be constructed, Kuno

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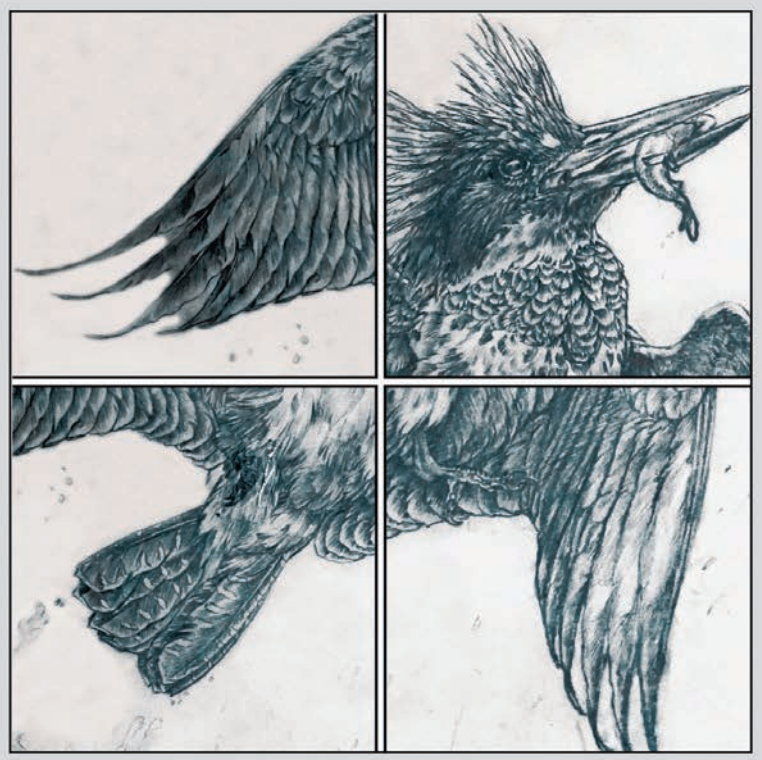
Of Light and Life

Michael Dumas



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